

THE INDEPENDENT

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PM jostled in Ulster

The Prime Minister was jeered and jostled by angry loyalists in Belfast yesterday, after he had shaken hands with Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader. Mr Adams had told Tony Blair that he hoped he would be the last British prime minister with jurisdiction in Ireland after the first such handshake since Lloyd George met Michael Collins in 1921. But anti-IRA protesters yelled 'traitor' at Mr Blair and told him his hands were covered in blood when he visited a shopping centre later. Page 5

Brent Spar won't sink

The Brent Spar oil storage tank, which Greenpeace forced Shell not to dispose of at sea, is likely to be broken up on land in Norway. Page 9

Alzheimer's discovery

Oxford scientists have made a breakthrough in the understanding of Alzheimer's disease. The interaction of two genes, which are carried by one in 15 of the population, greatly increase the risk of getting the degenerative disease. This may help doctors to interrupt it, but also raises important ethical questions about testing for it. Page 3

Egypt's rebel war

For five years Egypt has been struggling with the uprising of Islamic militants in a savage conflict which has caused 1,100 deaths. The Islamic movement had broken apart and President Mubarak was boasting of success. But the latest hard line taken by Israel against Hamas has made things dramatically tougher for the Egyptian government. Robert Fisk, Page 12

SEEN & HEARD

A dose of spirits can cure heart disease, doctors have discovered. When injected internally, a dram of pure alcohol can restore a damaged heart and have its owner back propping up the bar quicker than you can say Glenfiddich. The novel treatment has been used successfully on 300 patients at the Royal Brompton hospital in London and is attracting world-wide interest. Patients remain awake despite being dosed with liquid as twice the alcoholic strength of normal spirits. It is introduced via a catheter in a keyhole treatment directed to the heart for sufferers from a condition called hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy, which affects 12,000 people. Apparently bathing the thickened muscle in pure alcohol destroys it, with results as effective as open heart surgery.

WEATHER The Eye, page 10.
TELEVISION The Eye, page 12.
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Dropping the Pound: Blair, Brown clash on the biggest issue of all



BY ANTHONY BEVINS

A damaging rift has opened between the Prime Minister and Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, over membership of the European single currency. Our Political Editor reports on the makings of a political and economic crisis.

ling into a single currency. Mr Brown, who is said to regard himself as the Government's managing director - with Mr Blair as non-executive chairman - could be underestimating the Prime Minister's political determination not to repeat past mistakes, particularly the disastrous decision to join the European Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1990.

While Mr Blair appears content to give the Chancellor his head on issues like Bank of England independence on interest rates, he has been known to veto some of Mr Brown's more head-strong judgements - like his pre-election plan to introduce a 50p higher-rate income tax band for the better-off.

Mr Blair rejected that proposal because it smacked of the high-tax image Labour had fatally presented to the voters in 1992, under Neil Kinnock.

The Prime Minister maintains a highly political caution about early membership of the single currency, and Mr Brown is risking the kind of open split between No 10 and No 11 that led to the eventual resignations, as Chancellor, of Peter Thorneycroft in 1987, and Nigel Lawson in 1989.

Some ministers say Mr Blair would want to square Rupert Murdoch and his newspapers - particularly the Euro-phobic

Sun - before he even thought of putting the single currency issue to a referendum of the electorate, as promised in the May manifesto.

But a Treasury-inspired report in yesterday's *Daily Mail* said Mr Blair would use the opportunity offered by a

added more than £30bn to London share values, and knocked four pence off the value of the pound.

The *Financial Times* report was heavily denied by the Prime Minister's office at the time, with a spokesman saying it was "speculation, but wrong. There

"He has put enormous pressure on the Prime Minister who has prevaricated for months over a decision he fears could make or break his premiership."

The line from No 10 was, again, that the Government's position had not changed. Mr Blair told *The Independent* last month: "We have said that we will keep the option [of joining a single currency], and we will obviously keep it open ...

"If we want to retain any influence in shaping the debate on the single currency, then it is essential that we remain open to the possibility of entry, though as I have said before I think it is highly unlikely that we will be in the first wave."

Because European Union members will have to make a judgement by next spring on which countries can join in the first wave, the Government will have to make a statement before the end of the year on whether it plans to apply for first-wave membership.

The British open option does not require an early commitment to membership - although even the most Euro-sceptic ministers, like Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, have said it would be difficult, if not impossible, to remain outside a proven, successful single currency.

Peter Lilley, the shadow Chancellor, said yesterday: "If it is not in Britain's interests to join now, it would be illogical to commit us now to definitely join at some future date."

But he added: "Once again, the Labour government is playing party politics with critical national decisions."

"The British people are entitled to clear, on-the-record statements from the Chancellor, rather than off-the-record briefings to the press by Mr Brown's spin-doctor-in-chief, Charlie Whelan."

At a meeting with EU colleagues in Luxembourg yesterday, Mr Brown himself stuck rigidly to the official government line.

It was "very unlikely", he said, that the United Kingdom would join the euro at the start of 1999, because of the "formidable obstacles" the switch from the pound to the euro would present.

Mr Brown then avoided any predictions about the future, insisting that the Government's wait-and-see position had not changed.

Mr Lilley said: "They know that they cannot win the argument for joining a single currency in the foreseeable future openly, so their policy for the pound is death by a thousand briefings ..."

INSIDE: WHO'LL WIN?

'It would not be surprising if on those occasions when Tony Blair and Gordon Brown do have differences, Brown sometimes got his own way. But on most of the big issues the Prime Minister has eventually got his way when it counted.'

Donald Macintyre, page 21

Letters, page 20
Business, page 25

European summit in Luxembourg on 21 November to announce the decision to join the single currency "as soon as possible" after its 1999 launch.

Although it provided more detail, the *Mail* report was virtually identical to a front-page story carried by the *Financial Times* on 26 September - which

is no change in government policy."

It was also denied by the Treasury, which described it less robustly as "speculation". But yesterday's *Mail* said: "Mr Blair's move is a victory for Gordon Brown, a long-time enthusiast for a single currency."

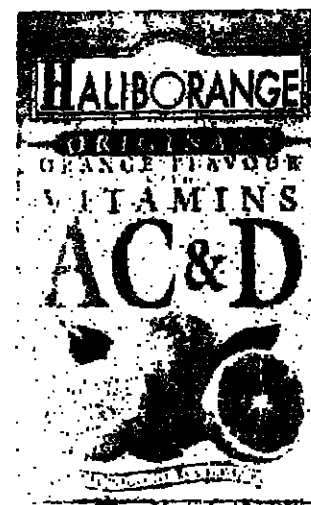
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Genes offer Alzheimer's breakthrough

A combination of two genes carried by one in 15 of the population is associated with a 30-fold increase in the risk of contracting Alzheimer's disease. Jeremy Laurant, Health Editor, considers the implications.

An advance in the understanding of one of the most feared diseases in the western world is reported by scientists today. Researchers at Oxford University have discovered a gene which interacts with a second, previously known gene to increase the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

People who carry both genes have 30 times the normal risk of developing the degenerative condition which strips the elderly of their dignity and affects an estimated 600,000 people in Britain. But the discovery raises questions about the ethics of testing for a disease that cannot be cured or prevented.

The Oxford discovery builds on earlier American research in 1993 which identified a variant of the Apo E gene on chromosome 19. People with the variant, known as E4 - about 25 per cent of the population - have a four-fold increased risk of developing Alzheimer's.

Now scientists at the Oxford project to investigate memory and ageing (Optima), headed by Professor David Smith, have discovered a variant of the gene for butyrylcholinesterase, a protein, on chromosome 3, which interacts with Apo E4 to give a 30-fold increase in risk. When present alone, the variant of the gene, known as "K", increases the risk seven and a half times. Only those over 65 with late onset Alzheimers are affected.

Although early onset Alzheimers is the same disease, it has a different cause.

Professor Smith, head of the department of pharmacology at Oxford University, said the findings were "very exciting" but had to be replicated before they could be relied on. "We were very surprised to find the interaction between the two genes. It suggests that the two proteins somehow interact to cause the disease. If it is replicated the discovery is important because it gives us a target to interrupt the disease process with drugs."

The findings are based on a study of 282 people over 65 in the Oxford area published in *Human Molecular Genetics*. Professor Smith said the discovery could open up a new chapter in Alzheimer's research but it raised "serious ethical questions" about testing. Bristol Myers Squibb, which funded the research, has applied to patent the test although it has no plans to develop one.

"I am 59 and I would not want to be tested. Even though if you have both gene variants you are at increased risk, it is not a certainty. Riding a motorbike is riskier than flying in an aeroplane but many people ride motorbikes and never have an accident."

The research team, which has been studying Alzheimers for 10 years, is now investigating the gene for a link with heart disease. Previous studies have shown the Apo E4 gene doubles the risk of heart disease.

Professor Smith said: "Is there an interaction [between the two gene variants], there too? If not then the effect is very specific to Alzheimer's, which would be a very important clue. If it does then it could be important in screening for heart disease."



Breakfast rivals: Chris Evans and Zoe Ball are battling for ratings - and headlines Photographs: Andrew Burman and PA

Hype is winner in the battle for breakfast time

The battle of breakfast time radio between Zoe Ball and Chris Evans got under way yesterday.

Paul McCann, Media Correspondent, finds that the struggle of the airwaves came second to the battle for headlines.

To bastardise Disraeli: there are three types of hype - hype, damned hype and show business hype. When Chris Evans started his breakfast show on Virgin Radio yesterday and Zoe Ball and the established DJ Kevin Greening started their new show on Radio 1 it was difficult to separate the damned lies from the publicity stunts.

Round one in the publicity battle went to the BBC with a report that its radio chief Matthew Bannister had turned down a request from Chris Evans to return to Radio 1.

Evans then made his own bid for headlines by claiming he had told Bannister to sack him so that Bannister could appear in control: "I had a breakfast meeting with Matthew Bannister. Matthew said he was having trouble fending off the press and pressure from the governors."

"I said, 'Between you and I, the best thing you could do now is get rid of me, because I have delivered the audience, then you can show your authority by getting rid of me.'"

Evans tried to pump controversy into his show by inviting William Hague, the Tory leader, on to the show to admit he is "a raving homosexual and proud of it" - while admitting that he knows Hague isn't gay, but saying it would be wonderful for ratings.

Evans also complained about having to work for three hours a day and celebrated the

new sponsor for his show by drinking a can of beer at 8.08am: "If you can't get pissed on your own show, when can you get pissed?" he asked.

In a show that saw the increasingly self-referential Evans play only five songs in his first hour, the DJ also revealed that he had returned to radio to get more freebies: "The reason we came back to the radio is because we stopped getting things for free. We didn't realise how much we got for free since we came off." He and his team had had free car loans and scooters in their time at Radio 1 and he had a Bentley at the weekend.

Radio 1 was making its own bid to keep listeners - and make headlines - by interviewing two of the Spice Girls about how the England footballer David Beckham had flown to Turkey to be with his girlfriend, Victoria Adams, a member of the all-girl band. Such is the fare of the breakfast show.

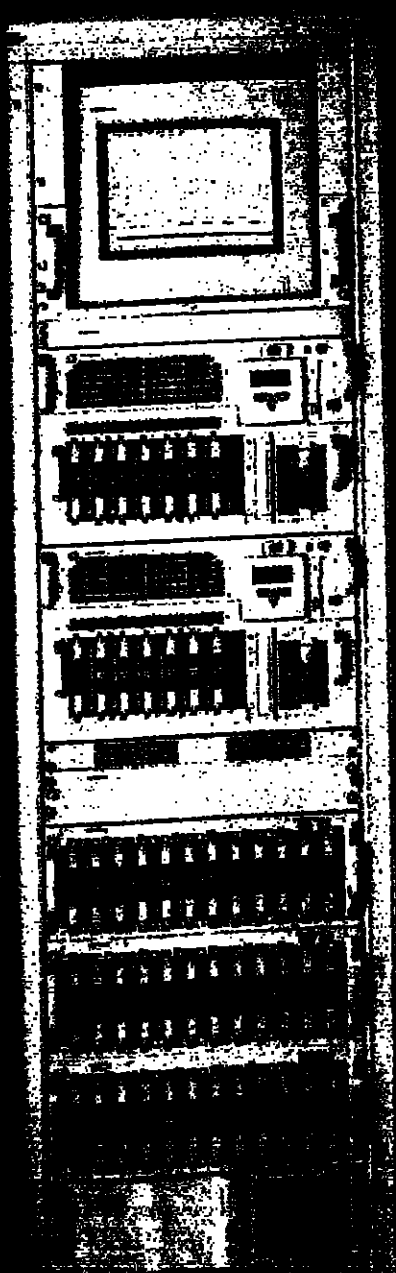
Radio 1 did at least attempt to stick to music and had the Lightning Seeds' lead singer, Ian Broudie, in the studio to play the band's new single.

At a post-show press conference just after Chris Evans and Richard Branson had sprayed each other with champagne Evans asserted, without a trace of irony, that Zoe Ball had been hired by the BBC just to garner publicity. "It's not Zoe's show," he said. "It's Kevin's. They are using her as a massive publicity thing."

The reason for all the fuss is that almost half of all radio listening takes place between 7 and 9am each day when 34 million people tune in to a radio. Over 5 million people listen to Radio 1 while Virgin is heard by 1.8 million.

Mr Bannister said: "You have to get your breakfast show right because the millions you bring in then will likely stay with you for the rest of the day."

FULL ON.



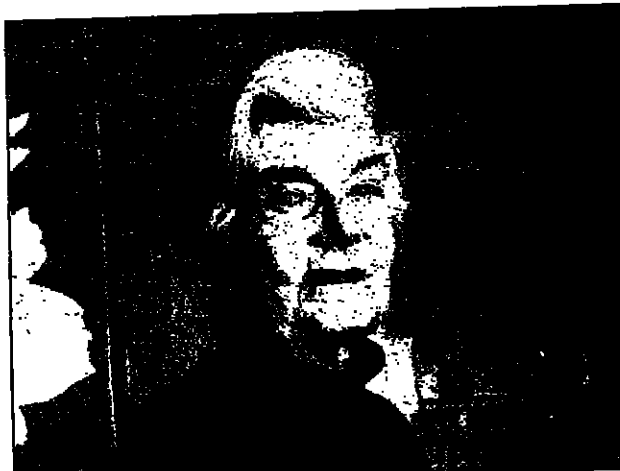
COMPAQ

TV has gone too far, says Middle England's high priestess of passion

Mary Wesley went to the Cheltenham Festival of Literature and captivated her audience with a lecture on sex. Sam Taylor listened to the 84-year-old novelist who could teach Doctor Ruth a thing or two.

Sex has come to Cheltenham. In a room packed with loyal fans, fed a diet of unbridled passion, heaving bosoms, handsome heroes and sexually bereft heroines, this was the moment they had been waiting for. They smiled when she mentioned her socialism, they cooed when she spoke lovingly of her home in Cornwall, they cheered the good news of her successful hip replacement but mostly they wriggled in their seats, waiting.

And they weren't disappointed. Mary Wesley does sex for middle England like no other. "Sex," said Mary, "is everywhere you look, in the street, in paintings, in music, in gestures, in just about everything." And, of course, in her novels. This, after all, is the woman that brought us the *Camomile Lawn*, a book that, when it was subsequently adapted for the small screen by Sir Peter Hall, kept the nation goggle-eyed week after week, enraptured by the extremely



Wesley: "We had sex but we didn't take our clothes off"

high bare-breast count. The whole nation that is, except for the author herself. "I hated the way they adapted the *Camomile Lawn* for the television," she fumed. "All those long languorous sex scenes were so out of context because we didn't have central heating during the war and so although we certainly didn't take all our clothes off. It was far too cold for all that. We went to bed in several sturdy sweaters and only took some of them off when we were actually under the blankets."

It wasn't she explained that she was a prude, far from it, just that it made her extremely angry that the BBC had seen fit

to abandon completely the period of the book. "Unforgivable," she added. "Here, here," said the elderly Cheltenham gentleman seated at the back of the hall. "I never got a good look at my wife's body for years and even then we had to have the lights off."

Mary, who didn't write her first novel, *Jumping The Queue*, until she was 70, gained her own sexual education in a time when young women were kept ignorant and innocent and the majority of her peers didn't have a clue what to expect. "I remember during the war, a young girl of 24 years old who was engaged to be married came up to me and asked if I could explain to her what would

CHEL TENHAM
LITERARY
FESTIVAL
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happen on her wedding night. I was married myself with young children and so she safely assumed I would know. When I told her how it all worked she just couldn't believe it!"

But the longer the war went on the more freedom women gained. "We had fun during the war because there was a sense, and this is what I tried to capture in the *Camomile Lawn*, that we might not have another chance. Consequently we spent a lot of time having parties and love affairs because every time might have been the last time."

It was, Mary explained to her captive audience, a good thing that women of the younger generation now have a greater sexual freedom but she wondered if sometimes it means they are a lot more indiscriminate than they might be. "In my day," she said, "I would only have sex with a man if I found him extremely attractive, these days, girls seem to choose them in much the same way as they might choose to suck on a boiled sweet."

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Blair barracked after historic handshake with Adams

Tony Blair was jostled and jeered by loyalists after shaking hands with Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams during a visit to Belfast. It was, says David McKitterick, Ireland Correspondent, a day which combined the promise of new beginnings with a sharp reminder of the persistence of conflict.

Tony Blair encountered both the rough and the smooth in Belfast yesterday. The smooth part came with what was by all accounts a cordial meeting with Gerry Adams. Martin McGuinness and other republicans in the inter-party talks at Stormont.

When Mr Adams told him that he hoped he would be "the last British prime minister with jurisdiction in Ireland," he did so in a non-confrontational tone. When Mr Blair replied that "there is an opportunity and we've got to seize it because if we don't see it we may not see it again in my lifetime," the Sinn Féin leader seems to have been impressed.

The civilities which accompanied this, the first hand-

shake between a prime minister and a Sinn Féin leader since Lloyd George met Michael Collins, were however in sharp contrast to the rough treatment Mr Blair received an hour later in an east Belfast shopping centre.

"Traitor," they shouted. "Your hands are covered in blood," they barracked him. The loyalist protesters were waiting, some wearing rubber gloves to show what they thought of the Blair-Adams handshake. "Shame," they shouted. One man kept up a metronomic chant: "Scum - scum - scum." A woman yelled: "You are contaminated, I'll not shake hands with you."

The Prime Minister took refuge in a bank before the security people got together to escort him away from it all.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, blamed the media, saying people had been "inflamed and goaded" by exaggerated reports of the significance of the occasion. He added: "I disapprove of what has happened but let's put the responsibility where it belongs."

The handshakes took place behind closed doors at the Stormont talks building.

Afterwards Mr Blair said: "I treated Gerry Adams and the members of Sinn Féin in the same way I treat any human be-

ing. What is important in the situation here in Northern Ireland is that we do treat each other as human beings. Everybody who is here has got to be committed to the principle of non-violence - anybody who departs from this will not be in these talks."

Mr Blair also held short meetings with the seven other parties, apart from Sinn Féin, who are in the talks. While discussions are still in their early stages, the British and Irish governments hope that today will bring the opening of substantive negotiations on what is seen as the most sensitive part of the talks, the question of Northern Ireland's future relations with the rest of Ireland.

Mr Adams later said approvingly: "We are dealing with a man who certainly recognises this is an historic opportunity. He recognises also there needs to be change to bring about transformation to consolidate the peace process. If there's going to be change, there needs to be change also by the British government and I hope Mr Blair brings that about."

John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said of Mr Blair: "The very fact that he is coming to visit our towns and cities has strengthened the will of our people for lasting peace in an enormous way."



Tony Blair is escorted through angry loyalist protesters at an east Belfast shopping centre shortly after meeting Gerry Adams. Photograph: Pacemaker

Lloyd George had never been quite so excited

The last occasion when a British prime minister formally met leaders of Sinn Féin was in 1921. David McKitterick on the historical precedents for yesterday's handshake.

At their four one-to-one meetings in 1921, Eamonn De Valera treated the British prime minister, Lloyd George, to extensive displays of his

legendary gifts for verbosity and ambiguity. His lengthy account of England's historic wrongs against Ireland left the prime minister, by one account, "white and exhausted".

Nonetheless, Lloyd George was quite taken by the republican leader, summing him up to a confidant as "a nice man, honest, astonishingly little vocabulary, wants to settle but afraid of his followers".

The PM had made special preparations for the meeting.

his secretary recording in her diary: "I have never seen him so excited as he was before De Valera arrived. I could see he was working out the best way of dealing with De Valera - as I told him afterwards, he was bringing up all his guns."

Since she was also Lloyd George's lover, it may be presumed that that she was familiar with his states of excitement.

Lloyd George, in a move which could hardly be de-

scribed as subtle, had the cabinet room decked out with a huge map of the world emphasising the large areas which then belonged to the British empire. De Valera, however, refused to be impressed. In their talks Lloyd George could get few straight answers.

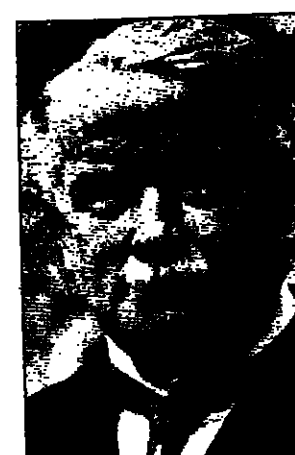
Their discussions ended without agreement but later in the year a full republican negotiating team arrived in London, this time dominated by Michael Collins.

The two men did not get on, Collins finding Lloyd George "particularly obnoxious". The PM originally judged the republican to be "undoubtedly a considerable person", but he later dismissed him as "an uneducated, rather stupid man".

A problem arose when some British ministers did not wish to shake hands with the Sinn Féin delegation, regarding them as murderers. To deal with this Lloyd George alone shook hands with the re-

publicans. He then introduced them to his ministers across the cabinet table, the broad expanse of which made handshakes impossible.

Lloyd George never managed to establish working relationships with republicans, but the talks exercise was in republican terms disastrous, leading to the Anglo-Irish treaty, the split within republicanism, the death of Collins and the cementing of the partition of Ireland.



Lloyd George: Felt Collins was 'a rather stupid man'

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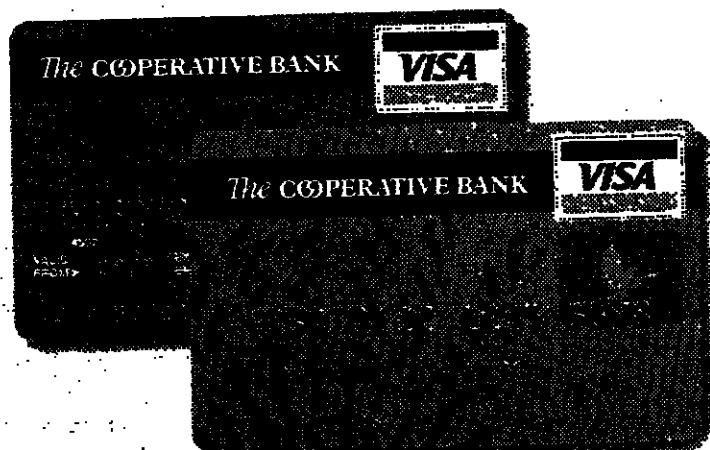
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Banks promises action as Rome forces football violence back on the agenda

After Rome, the FA fears of further violence at the World Cup. While Tony Banks promised a clampdown on hooligans and "unofficial" ticket agents, Ian Burrell says fans are already planning their trips to France.

Despite evidence that many English fans were the innocent victims of thuggish Italian policing at Saturday's match in Rome, the violence has forced football hooliganism back on to the political agenda.

Tony Banks, the sports minister, said yesterday that the courts were not doing enough to stop convicted thugs travel-

ling abroad. "Officials... are now reviewing the scheme. Because quite clearly, if we are not using the powers that we have to stop these people travelling then frankly we are not doing our job properly," he said.

Earlier Mr Banks said that, although he blamed Italian fans for starting the violence, he was concerned at the role of

what he called "so-called responsible" ticket agencies which sold English fans tickets obtained from Italian sources. "We are going to have look very carefully at whether this should be permitted," he said.

Keith Prowse International, which sold packages for the game to 950 England fans, said it supplied British and Italian

police with the names and addresses of all the supporters. "We have done nothing wrong. In fact, the Italian authorities even told us how well we had done everything," it said.

France is the next potential battle zone and yesterday travel companies reported an immediate demand for packages to the finals in the summer.

Richard Brierly, chief executive of the Association of British Tour Operators to France, said: "I would have thought all operators interested in offering the package will look at any [ticketing] source they can provided it is legal and above board." Yesterday the Italian judicial authorities were dealing with 31 English fans arrested at the weekend.

Andrew Jordan, 38, a manager, from St Albans, Hertfordshire; Fernando Puertolano, 31, a psychiatric nurse from Brentwood, Essex; and Nigel Andrews, 39, from Cradley Heath, West Midlands admitted knocking a policeman unconscious and received eight-month suspended jail sentences. The same

sentence was imposed on Patrick Brogan, 30, of Aldershot, Hampshire, who admitted head-butting a policeman. In Ireland yesterday, Stephen Smith, 31, from Scunthorpe, was banned from the country after admitting throwing seats at Irish fans when England played in Dublin in 1995.

Italy draw Russia, page 32

Surgeons accused over high child death rate

A senior consultant is alleged to have continued to perform complex heart surgery on babies although the death rate for his patients was nearly four times the national average. *Kathy Marks reports on one of the most significant General Medical Council cases of recent years.*

Between 1990 and 1994, nine of the fifteen babies who underwent "hole in the heart" operations at the hands of James Wisheart died. The mortality rate, according to Roger Henderson, QC, counsel for the GMC, was "unacceptably high."

The charge was made at the start of a marathon disciplinary hearing against three doctors accused of serious professional misconduct relating to babies operated on for congenital heart defects at the Bristol Royal Infirmary between 1988 and 1995.

The case against Mr Wisheart and Jannard Dhasmana, both paediatric cardiac surgeons, and Dr John Roylance, former chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust, is expected to last well into next year and to hear evidence from up to 40 families. It will be followed by a Government inquiry that could lead to changes in the way that surgical practice is regulated.

Mr Henderson said that Mr Wisheart should have realised by 1993 that his death rate was up to 54 per cent, compared with a national level of 13.9 per cent. His rate was "comparatively disastrous," Mr Henderson said.

Mr Wisheart and Mr Dhasmana, the latter of whom specialised in "switching" operations to unscramble major arteries, are alleged to have continued with their

work despite concerns expressed to them by colleagues. Mr Wisheart, who was also the hospital's medical director and is now retired, is also said to have misled parents about the risks of their children dying or suffering brain damage. Dr Roylance is accused of failing to heed the concerns of other consultants and prevent further operations going ahead.

Mr Henderson said lessons had been learned in Bristol and the provision of paediatric heart services had radically improved in the past two years. "I appreciate that these words may be of little solace to parents of children who have died or suffered brain damage," he added. "It is clear that emotions run high in many quarters."

Of Mr Dhasmana's infant patients, 20 out of 38 died between 1988 and 1995. Mr Henderson said that no one doubted the dedication of either doctor, but they should have been aware of how poorly their results compared with the national picture. "They had to stop operating if too many babies were dying," he said.

Mr Henderson said that Dr Stephen Bolson, a consultant anaesthetist, had played a key role in raising the alert about the two surgeons. "He may be portrayed by others as a rather unattractive whistle-blower," he said. "The fact remains that it was and is the overriding duty of a doctor to safeguard the interests of patients, even if that means shopping a colleague or blowing the whistle on a colleague's performance or conduct."

Mr Henderson said experts would tell the GMC that a number of children "would be alive today" if a more experienced surgeon had operated on Mr Dhasmana's patients. At one time, two babies out of three were dying after being operated on by him, more than six times the accepted level.

All three doctors deny misconduct. The case continues tomorrow.

John Denver dies in crash

Often scorned by the critics, doted on by fans who bought his records by the million, country singer John Denver died when the small aircraft he was flying plummeted into the Pacific. Denver, a licensed pilot, crashed shortly after take-off from Monterey Airport, south of San Francisco, on Sunday night. His single-engine aircraft was described by local police as "experimental", and witnesses said it dropped suddenly into the water from about 500 feet.

Denver, 53, became one of the biggest recording artists in the United States with a country boy image and songs that were irresistibly catchy. His allure was difficult to define but it served him well. "He was never anything but John Denver. He didn't accommodate new trends," said his friend Pierre Cossette.

Born Henry John Deutschendorf Jr, son of an Air Force pilot, he took his name from

the capital of Colorado, the state where he lived. His big break came in 1969 when one of his songs, "Leaving on a Jet Plane", was turned into a hit by Peter, Paul and Mary. He began performing his own compositions, like "Sunshine on my Shoulders", and "Thank God I'm a Country Boy". Eight of his albums went platinum with sales of more than a million, and *John Denver's Greatest Hits* has sold 10 million world-wide.

He is best known for "Annie's Song", written for his first wife. Its lyrics were typical of his folk-pop tunes and their simple, Western themes: "You fill up my senses, like a night in the forest, like the mountains in spring time, like a walk in the rain." The World Wide Web site for his fan club yesterday carried the message: "Though the singer is silent, there is still truth in his song."

— Tim Cornwell
Obituary, page 22

13 MUSICIANS WHO DIED IN PLANE CRASHES

Glen Miller - 1944
Buddy Holly
The Big Bopper
Richie Valens - all together in 1959
Patsy Cline - 1963
Jim Reeves - 1964
Otis Redding - 1967
Ronnie van Zant

Steve Gaines
Cassie Gaines (all Lynryd Skynyrd) - 1977
Rick Nelson - 1985
Stevie Ray Vaughan - 1990 (plus three members of Eric Clapton's entourage in a helicopter crash)
John Denver - 1997



History man: Michael Foot after speaking at the dedication of newly restored memorials to radical reformers and to Robert Owen, founder of the Co-operative Movement, in Kensal Green, north-west London. Photograph: David Rose

High winds ground Saturn mission as court bid fails

Court battles launched by environmentalists failed to stop the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn from getting off the launch pad yesterday. Instead, it was nature that held up the start of its 2.2 billion-mile journey.

High winds at 45,000ft meant the 182ft-high rocket was grounded by scientists at mission control in Florida but it still has a launch window extending to 15 November in order to complete its rendezvous with Titan, one of Saturn's moons, in seven years. The legal challenges came from by environmentalists concerned about radiation contamination should the rocket, which has a nuclear power source, crash, spilling plutonium into the atmosphere. They failed, and scientists continued to try to reassure them yesterday that the odds of any leakage were 1,400-1 against.

Technical hitches involving batteries and a computer contributed to yesterday's delay. However, the winds were above acceptable levels, according to mission control. The next suitable launch opportunity is tomorrow morning.

— Steve Boggan

£15m for Maxwell legal aid

The legal aid bill for defence lawyers in the Maxwell fraud trial totalled £14.15m, it was revealed yesterday. Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, gave the figures as he defended government plans to cap the legal aid fees paid in big criminal trials.

Lord Irvine, giving evidence to the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, said that just 1 per cent of cases accounted for 40 per cent of the criminal legal aid paid out in the Crown Courts. "These are very big figures indeed. The very, very high fees that in some cases are charged - I think there is a very powerful argument that we move in certain categories to fixed price contracting." However, he acknowledged the Government could not force any lawyer to work for fees they considered unacceptable.

First woman for national park

One of the last bastions of male dominance in the public service is beginning to crumble. The heavily bearded world of national parks is about to get its first woman chief executive.

Heather Hancock, a 32-year-old who helped set up the Department of National Heritage and the Millennium Commission, has been appointed national park officer for the Yorkshire Dales. She beat 160 other applicants to head the park authority.

— Stephen Goodwin

Soldier escapes Cyprus jail

A British soldier escaped a jail sentence yesterday when he was fined £750 for assaulting two tourists outside a Cyprus disco.

King's Rifleman Roger Bell, 26, from Liverpool, walked from court a free man after the judge decided not to impose a custodial sentence in order to save the soldier's army career.

Any type of custodial sentence or even a suspended one would have meant Bell, a storekeeper with the regiment in Cyprus, would have been discharged. Bell faced up to three years in a Cyprus prison after pleading guilty to causing actual bodily harm to English tourists Barry Ford, 23, and a charge of common assault against his girlfriend Claire Harbour, 22, on in August.

Teacher agency drops demand for top degrees

A target requiring the majority of trainee teachers to hold a top degree has been scrapped. The move emerged as a recruitment drive is launched to remedy a growing shortfall in the profession, says Education Correspondent Lucy Ward.

The Teacher Training Agency's goal of eight out of 10 trainee teachers holding a first- or upper-second-class degree by 2002 is being scaled down before it has even been implemented.

Instead, as the TTA will reveal today at the launch of a high-profile campaign to lure recruits to the profession, the Government will aim to ensure 95 per cent of all entrants to post-graduate teacher training courses have at least a lower-second.

The original target, outlined in August in a letter from the agency to providers of teacher training, was quietly dropped after protests that it was unrealistic.

However, today's launch will see the agency outlining new goals on the qualifications of entrants to teaching courses. It will aim to lift the average A-level grades of entrants from its present level of a C and two Ds to at least three Cs - the average for non-teacher training courses.

Whitehall sources said yesterday: "Teaching trainees should at least have the same qualifications as entrants to other degree programmes. I don't see why we should stand for anything less on that - a weak teacher does more harm than an absent teacher."

The launch will see the unveiling of a £1.5m advertising campaign to boost recruitment, featuring cinema adverts spreading the message: "No one forgets a good teacher."

Applications for courses have dropped sharply as the economic recovery has increased the career options for graduates.

At the end of August, there were 1,433 graduates applying to teach maths in secondary schools, compared with 2,246 in 1994. For science, there were fewer than 3,000 applications compared with 4,000 in 1994.

Amid the efforts to attract high quality new recruits to teaching, local authorities are also seeking government help in removing those not up to standard.

A £17m cash pot being considered by ministers will allow schools to pay off bad teachers to remove them from the classroom as early as possible. This follows an approach by Graham Lane, education chairman of the Local Government Association and leader of the local authority employers.

Mr Lane said a fund was needed to allow schools to implement a new agreement on fast-track procedures for removing incompetent teachers without a loss of momentum. No dismissal should take longer than two terms in total, the agreement says.

Teachers' red tape rage

Teachers believe they are wasting nearly three hours a day on paperwork and non-teaching activities, says a survey released yesterday.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, which carried out the survey, said that the Government's policy of target-setting was one of the new initiatives which threatened to submerge teachers in paperwork.

Target-setting is central to the Government's efforts to raise standards. Each school will set goals which will contribute to national targets on which the Government will be judged in five years' time.

But Mr de Gruchy said that target setting was becoming absurd. In one unnamed school teachers had to write reports on children every two weeks in all subjects. "They then have to describe what each child is going to achieve in another two weeks, and then describe how they are going to move

each child from where they are to where they want them to be."

The union's survey of nearly 12,000 teachers shows that they think around 15 hours of their 51-hour week are wasted on jobs that take them out of the classroom.

Teachers were asked to place a value on each of seven areas of work. Only teaching, lesson preparation and marking scored highly. They thought contact with governors was largely a waste of time and that communication with parents, except when a child had misbehaved, was often unproductive. Marketing, teachers said, was the biggest waste of time.

They suggested that the Office for Standards in Education, which supervises inspections, was one of the main reasons for administrative overload.

Union leaders accept that teachers must continue to carry out some of the tasks which they do not value highly but believe red tape could still be cut. — Judith Judd

New powers urged to oust rogue police

Police chiefs last night called for sweeping powers to root out corrupt officers. The Association of Chief Police Officers said measures were needed to get rid of the "tiny minority" of policemen who had no place in the service.

In evidence presented to the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee Britain's top-ranking police chiefs called for a lower standard of proof in disciplinary proceedings. Acpo said the test should be that the case is proved "on the balance of probabilities" rather than the present standard of "beyond all reasonable doubt", which is

the same as for a criminal prosecution. The chairman of Acpo's discipline and complaints sub-committee, Peter Bensley, the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire, told MPs that the current situation was out of step with modern management practice.

"I have less powers than the manager of a large business," he said. "You are expecting me to manage an organisation. Just give us the tools to do the job."

He stressed that the new powers were needed to deal with the most serious cases where officers were alleged to be involved in corruption or crime.

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■ Identifying Dormant Accounts

The Swiss banks are committed to identifying all accounts that could have belonged to victims of Nazi persecution.

In addition to conducting their own search for dormant accounts, the Swiss banks are providing complete access and assistance to hundreds of forensic auditors working for the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons, chaired by Paul A. Volcker and comprised of prominent Jewish and Swiss leaders.

■ Helping Needy Holocaust Survivors

The Swiss banks are committed to helping needy Holocaust survivors.

Earlier this year, the three largest Swiss banks, Credit Suisse, Swiss Bank Corporation and UBS, contributed 100 million Swiss francs (\$70 million) to establish a special fund for victims of the Holocaust. Other Swiss banks and Swiss industry have since contributed an additional 80 million Swiss francs (\$55 million). With a pledge of 100 million Swiss francs from the Swiss National Bank the fund now has a total of 280 million Swiss francs (\$194 million). The Fund's board consists of representatives of Jewish organisations and private Swiss citizens and is chaired by Rolf Bloch, leader of the Swiss Jewish community. Proceeds from the Fund will soon be distributed to Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe.

■ Publishing Dormant Accounts

The Swiss banks are committed to publishing dormant accounts.

In July, the Swiss banks published an initial list of World War II-era dormant accounts of non-Swiss customers in newspapers around the world and established an Internet site. The Swiss banks also established five international contact offices staffed by representatives of the accounting organisation of Ernst & Young which was engaged to help rightful owners file claims.

■ Creating An Expedited Payment Process

The Swiss banks are committed to returning assets to their rightful owners quickly, easily and without cost to claimants.

To accomplish this objective, the banks have established a cost-free, expedited payment process, which is being supervised by an independent, international panel operating under relaxed standards of proof. Claims from the July list are now being processed and payments will be made shortly.

This progress demonstrates the seriousness of the Swiss banks which are among the first to address and to resolve this complex issue.

New Information Available

On October 29, the following World War II-era accounts will be published:

- Dormant passbooks and savings accounts of *non-Swiss* citizens.
- Dormant accounts of *non-Swiss* citizens that have been identified as a result of the Swiss banks' ongoing search.
- Dormant accounts belonging to *Swiss* citizens.

Call Our Contact Offices

If you wish to review these lists, please fill out the Information Kit Request Form and mail it to the nearest Ernst & Young contact office listed below. You will receive an Information Kit that includes the lists, fully describes the claims process, and explains how to file a claim.

- Ernst & Young LLP, Dormant Accounts
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- Kost Levary and Forer, Dormant Accounts
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Tel. +972 3 623 2559
- ATAG Ernst & Young, Dormant Accounts
Aeschengraben 9, P.O. Box 2149, CH-4002 Basel,
Switzerland, Tel. +41 61 272 08 11
- Ernst & Young Kft, Dormant Accounts
1146 Budapest, Hermina út 17, Hungary, Tel. +36 1 343 5117
- Ernst & Young, Dormant Accounts
The Ernst & Young Building, G.P.O. Box 2646, Sydney,
N. S. W. 2001, Australia, Tel. +61 2 9248 5736

If you have already received an Information Kit from Ernst & Young, an updated kit will be mailed to you automatically.

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If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the following Freephone number: **0800-731-0451**.

You can also search for dormant accounts and review other pertinent information at the Swiss Bankers Association's Internet site:
<http://www.dormantaccounts.ch>

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Wanted: computer experts. Name your salary

A computer services group is resorting to innovative tactics in response to the chronic shortage of computer specialists in the UK. Sameena Ahmad discovers that the demand for experts means some salaries have doubled in the past two years.

Logica has just opened its first walk-in careers desk in London, inviting people who read its advertisements on London's underground trains to come in off the street, learn about the company and set up an interview.

A spokesman for the company said the office near Oxford Circus had been open just five days, but has already attracted 100 people, 60 of whom have been invited for formal interview.

The spokesman said the company has been staggered by the success of the venture: "It's about being smart. Of course we advertise in papers like everyone else, but we thought how could we stand out from other IT companies looking for staff?" he said.

"This has proved incredibly popular. We had in a highly qualified programmer from the Middle East in the office, who happened to spot the advertisement on his way into London from Heathrow. He is being interviewed next week."

Logica said the advertisements were targeted at graduates and people looking to learn about IT as well as IT professionals. Given the initial success, the group may open more desks outside London.

The company is also offering existing staff bonuses to introduce new employees. Last year the company recruited a quarter of its new people in the



Logging on: Hopeful job candidates at Logica's drop-in interview centre just off Oxford Street in central London

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Netherlands this way.

Shortage of skilled IT staff has become the key factor limiting the growth of IT companies in the UK. Logica was forced to post a profits warning in June after it said it had failed to recruit computer staff quickly enough.

The problem is soaring salaries, driven by the growing reliance of business on IT and exploding demand for IT specialists to solve the millennium crisis and the possible introduction of the single currency.

The combination of wage inflation, averaging a staggering 20 per cent a year, plus

growth in the number of short term contracts has led a sharp increase in staff turnover in the IT industry with computer buffs chasing the best paying contracts.

Richard Holway, who writes the IT bible, the Holway Report, said that computer staff shortages were becoming critical.

"I have heard of companies who have staff turnover rates of up to 30 per cent. It is just appalling given the costs of recruiting new staff. Demand for IT - bank loyalty cards, the Internet, electronic trading - is phenomenal and growing."

WHO PROFITS FROM SKILLS SHORTAGE

It is not just information technology experts who have seen their salaries rocket over the last few years.

A shortage of staff in the financial world means employers are having to pay out over the odds to secure the best people.

With tax departments struggling to find recruits, salaries have increased by 10 per cent in the last three months alone.

A head of tax working for a FTSE 100 company can earn £160,000 today compared with £144,000 in July.

Banks are also paying out more than they were a few months ago. A head of derivatives operations in a major bank can earn £105,000 compared with £98,000 three months ago. But the most dramatic increase in demand

has been for quantitative analysts who assess the financial risk of a company. Last year a PhD quantitative analyst with three years' experience could earn £70,000. This year their earning potential has shot up to £120,000.

In information technology, figures are comparable. A head of IT can now earn £150,000 compared with £125,000 a year ago.

A head of systems development can earn £80,000, compared with £60,000 two years ago. Programme managers can earn £80,000 compared with £40,000 two years ago. A project leader can £65,000 compared to £50,000 a year ago. A junior data base administrator can start on £30,000 compared with £24,500 a year ago. (Figures: Robert Walters)

— Amanda Kelly

Fast-chip revolution for home computers

A new generation of ultra-fast micro chips was launched yesterday. They will have the processing power of a super-computer but at the cost of today's PCs. Randeep Ramesh says the new chips could revolutionise home computing

performed will be "significantly improved using the new chip". Mr Dewannain said that the computing power would especially be useful for many "Virtual Reality" applications.

"You could have classroom field trips to the Egyptian pyramids via virtual reality so real children experience the look and feel of an ancient civilisation," said Mr Dewannain.

Another area would be games - already a multi-billion pound global industry. The latest hits, such as Tomb Raider, feature animated figures in 3D but most suffer from being unlife-like.

"This chip will allow for a much more realistic representation. The problem is that at the moment you are far from your computer looking like the scene outside your window," he added.

Mr Dewannain also predicted that with the increased number-crunching power that voice recognition for personal computers would become a reality. "It is a question of separating the real signal from the noise and that needs a powerful computer."

Other industries to benefit include weather forecasting - which soaks up processing power due to its mathematical intricacies - and the health service, where surgeons could be practising operations in virtual reality before using their scalpels on patients.

With the rate of processing power inexorably increasing, Mr Dewannain predicted that the company would have a chip capable of 3 billion floating point calculations by the end of the century.

New computer chips - which are claimed to be the first to perform 1 billion "floating point" calculations every second - were unveiled yesterday by Texas Instruments. This is 20 times faster than today's personal computers.

The increased computing power will produce "film quality" 3D graphics which simply require too much processing power available on home computers, say the company.

The new chips should be available in the second half of next year. Users will be able to purchase "boards" which can be inserted into conventional systems - most of which use microprocessors like Intel's Pentium chip. The micro-processor is likely to cost between £30 and £60 when produced in bulk.

The technology is developed from processors used in today's mobile phones. Eric Dewannain, Texas' European manager for the Digital Signal Processors, said: "It is like putting a Formula One engine in your family saloon."

The company says that any application that requires a large number of calculations to be

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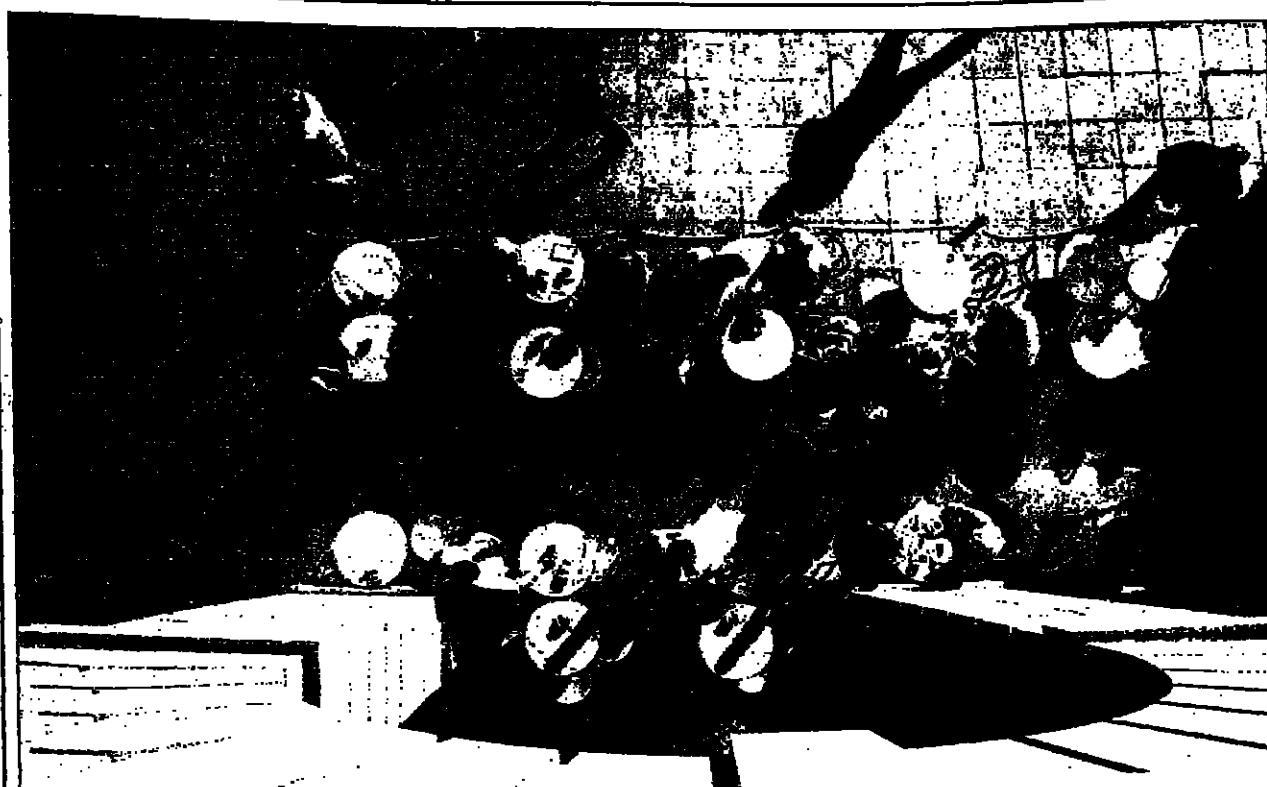
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Restoration drama: Conservationists are worried that Covent Garden is becoming 'tatty' Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Cafe society's blot on the townscape

Twenty three years after Covent Garden's fruit and vegetable market moved out, the area has become a victim of its own success. Stephen Goodwin examines a classic case of conservation at odds with commerce.

Aussie bars, canopies of perma-umbrellas and racks of garish waistcoats à la Carnaby Street; it's all too frightful for the Covent Garden Area Trust. The place may have been a market for most of the past 300 years but the Trust believes over-commercialisation is destroying the character of Inigo Jones's piazza.

Some 40 million people a year visit the central London piazza, making it one of the most successful city restorations. But the image of upmarket boutiques is being tarnished by businesses trying to wring every last penny from their patch. A damning 127-page study by the

Civic Design Partnership warned last week that urgent action is needed if the historic area is not to lose the character which has made it so popular.

Pavement cafes maximising trading space beneath a canopy of corporate umbrellas are among the worst offenders, according to the Trust. Unauthorised stalls, tables and chairs obstruct footways and infiltration by less chic high street names are not far behind.

"It really is starting to look like the lower end of Oxford Street," says Leana Pooley, the Trust's administrator. This disdainful verdict takes in the likes of Sheila's Bar - "Drink your way round the world" - racks of cut-price clothing, and a Pizza Hut next to a Lloyds Bank.

"It's all so tatty... We get accused of being terribly snobbish, but I don't think it is that. Once you start having all the same old high street people what's the point in coming here? You might as well go to New Malden."

The study, commissioned by the Trust jointly with English Heritage, Westminster

City Council and Guardian Properties, who manage the restored market building, calls for better design for pavement cafes, removing obtrusive umbrellas, restoring authentic shop fronts and paving, and banning vehicles. The work would cost £5m.

Way back in mid-Saxon times a thriving trade settlement existed in the area. The piazza, reflecting Inigo Jones' love of the formal market squares of Italy, and St Paul's Church, date from the 17th century. Charles Fowler's neo-classical market building appeared in 1830 and was roofed over in 1872.

The battle of the umbrellas seems destined to run and run. Trevor Davies, director of the Market Cafe, which has 140 seats beneath umbrellas out in the open, says the weather makes large umbrellas a necessity. He accused the conservationists of not listening to the traders: "They want to ban everything in sight without consulting. I used to come here as a kid when the [fruit and veg] market was thriving... And that's how it should be."

Britain to lose out over Brent Spar

Shell's Brent Spar oil storage tank is likely to be scrapped on shore in Norway. The oil giant is now close to deciding on the preferred alternative to dumping the Spar at sea. But Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, says British yards will be the losers.

Shell will finally tell the Government what it wants to do with the Spar within the next two or three months, more than two years after Greenpeace's campaign forced the company to abandon its plans to sink the skyscraper-sized structure in the north Atlantic.

Soon after that traumatic event - Shell changed its corporate mind only a couple of hours before the Spar was meant to be scrapped - it began an exhaustive procedure to find a more acceptable alternative. The 14,500-tonne tank had spent two decades storing crude oil in a North Sea field.

At the beginning of this year Shell short-listed six engineering consortia which had put in a variety of bids for bringing the floating structure to shore and re-using or re-cycling it. Each was given £250,000 to carry out detailed planning.

Now each scheme has been analysed for its technical and safety risks, environmental impacts and "societal effects" by the independent Norwegian foundation Det Norsk Veritas, a world leader in assessing marine risks. Each has been ranked under these different headings. The likely cost of each option has also been

weighed up independently. The results show how expensive recycling is compared with deep-sea dumping, which had been approved by the Government. That would have cost just under £5m.

The cheapest of the consortia's schemes comes in at £11.4m whilst the most expensive would cost £48m. Under that proposal the Brent Spar, currently moored in a Norwegian fjord, would be towed across the North Sea to a yard at Nigg in north-east Scotland, for scrapping.

Heinz Rothermund, managing director of Shell UK exploration and production said: "We are now entering the home straight." The aim was "to find a solution that on balance is at least as good as, or better than, deep-sea disposal".

He gave no clue as to what Shell's final preference would be. But from an analysis of the rankings under safety, risk, environmental impact and cost, it appears that one short-listed scheme to cut up the Brent Spar to build an offshore reef, protecting the East Anglian coastline, has little chance.

The highly ranked options with relatively low costs all involve Norwegian locations. The final choice will probably be between a consortium formed by the Scottish energy company John Wood, based in Aberdeen, and the Norwegian GMC group, and another Norwegian consortium, Kvaerner Seaway Spar Alliance.

Wood-GMC proposes using the Spar cables, then cutting its cylindrical hull into rings to extend a quay in Norway. Kvaerner Seaway plan to cut it up, either for metal scrap or to be used as a fish farm. Whatever Shell chooses will have to be approved by the government.



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Whale deal links ban and local culls

A global sanctuary for whales - to be supported by the British Government at the International Whaling Commission meeting in Monaco next week - has left environmentalists in turmoil because it would allow coastal whaling.

A steep rise in the number of whales being killed this year by Japan and Norway has led Britain to join an international effort to ban all high seas whaling in return for allowing coastal whaling for the first time in 11 years.

Conservationists, led by Greenpeace, are opposed in principle to coastal whaling. They want a ban on all whaling and an end to trade in whale products. "We support a global sanctuary but not coastal whaling. Whales are no respecters of territorial limits," said a Greenpeace spokesman.

The idea of a sanctuary was put forward by Ireland and amounts to a political trade off in an attempt to regain some of

the killing. Norway and Japan are using a loophole in the 1986 whaling ban allowing catches for "scientific" purposes to nearly double their haul in the last four years.

There are now around 1,000 whales being killed each year, outside the control of the IWC. Elliot Morley, the agriculture minister, said the present situation is "not satisfactory" and Britain may support a shift of policy but only if it leads to "a significant and permanent reduction in the number of whales being killed each year".

The plan would not halt whaling by the Norwegians, who get most of their catch in coastal waters, but it would hit the Japanese who go whaling in Antarctica and the North Pacific.

The environmental groups will be out in force at the IWC next week, although no decision is expected to be made. Whitehall sources said a deal could be reached next year in Oman.

Violence and sex offences mar 5% fall in crime rate

The number of criminal offences in England and Wales has dropped again, officially figures will show today. But as Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, writes, it is not all good news for the Government

Recorded crimes fell by about 5 per cent - 125,000 offences - in the first half of the year, it is expected to be announced today. Violent crimes, however, are believed to have risen again in England and Wales.

Offences involving violence rose by 11 per cent to 344,300 cases last year, the biggest increase for seven years. Sexual offences including rape also rose significantly. The worst areas for violent crime in 1996 were London and the South-east.

Today's police figures are expected to show that the bulk of the 5 per cent drop to about 2.4 million - the equivalent of about 4.75 million a year - are due to a reduction in property crimes, such as burglary.

The Conservative Party is bound to seize on the figures as evidence that their "prison works" anti-crime strategy is continuing to prove effective. Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, was in charge during four of the six months covered this year. The number of crimes have now fallen for four consecutive years, although they have almost doubled since the Tories came into power in 1979.

The way in which crime statistics are collated are also about to be altered, which is bound to result in a steep increase in the total of recorded offences. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is expected to stress the nature of the changes today to avoid having Labour's next crime results being branded a failure.

The way the twice-yearly crime figures are published are being over-hauled in an attempt to provide a more accurate total and cut the political controversy that surrounds them. The previous system was criticised for the way a string of offences committed by an offender could end up being counted as just one crime. The new system would be based on the principle of "one crime per victim".



Army's black and Asian recruitment drive turns to Kitchener for a role model

The Army yesterday unveiled its plan to re-use one of the most radical and successful advertising campaigns of all time to overcome its reputation for racial discrimination.

The enduring image of Lord Kitchener, pointing from a poster with the legend "Your Country Needs You", has been commandeered for an ethnic recruitment drive, which aims to increase by seven-fold the numbers of black and Asian soldiers.

In place of Kitchener, the face of Ghanaian-born Captain "Fiddle" Dalton, looks out at would-be new recruits. A separate poster, designed to attract more Asian troops, features Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar Chaudhary.

Both soldiers are members of the Army's ethnic minorities recruitment team, which has been set up amid concerns that only 1.54 per cent of military personnel come from ethnic minorities compared to 5 per cent in the civil service.

The new equal opportunities directive was announced yesterday by General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff. "There is still a perception in the ethnic communities that the Army is a racist organisation," he said.

"But we now have a long-term programme to improve representation of ethnic minorities and to make sure that everyone in my Army understands that discrimination of any sort is not acceptable."

Jon Burrell

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Trainees to get minimum pay

Ministers are insisting that the national minimum wage will apply to jobless youngsters taking part in the New Deal programme - albeit at a lower rate.

As the CBI and the TUC make their submissions to the newly-created Low Pay Commission, the Government has decided that young people will be paid the "normal rate for the job". That means jobless 18- to 24-year-olds on work placements will be paid a special statutory minimum pay limit for all trainees.

The news emerges when the overwhelming majority of submissions to the commission, which will advise the Government on the national minimum wage, call for a "training rate". Employers in particular are concerned that businesses are not discouraged from taking on trainees by being forced to pay the full rate which is expected to come into force at the end of next year or early 1999.

The Government, however, could be heading for a clash over the minimum wage with the CBI, which will today urge the commission to exempt anyone on the Welfare to Work scheme which includes participants in the New Deal.

The CBI will say that a general minimum set in line with the now defunct Wages Council rates - equal to around £3.20 an hour - would be unlikely to cause significant job losses. However, it says a rate of £4.40 - favoured by some unions - would have a "serious impact on jobs and inflation".

A submission from the TUC, revealed last month in *The Independent*, calls for "somewhat above £4 an hour".

— Barry Clement, Labour Editor

Hirst protesters fined

Five animal activists stormed into a top London restaurant to protest at an exhibition by controversial artist Damien Hirst, a court was told yesterday.

Customers at Quo Vadis, in Covent Garden, run by Marco Pierre-White, were sitting down to dinner by the exhibit - a couple of skinned bull's heads floating in formaldehyde - when "mayhem" broke out, it was claimed. A painting was kicked, a vase broken, and binliners full of rubbish emptied across the floor.

Neil Hanson, 30, of Hertfordshire; Robin Lane, 42, of south-east London, and Brendon McNally, 35, of north London, who admitted using threatening words and behaviour, were fined £200 over the incident last January. Melanie Gatty, 28, and Paul Gravette, 35, of north London, who denied causing affray, were bound over to keep the peace.

DAILY POEM

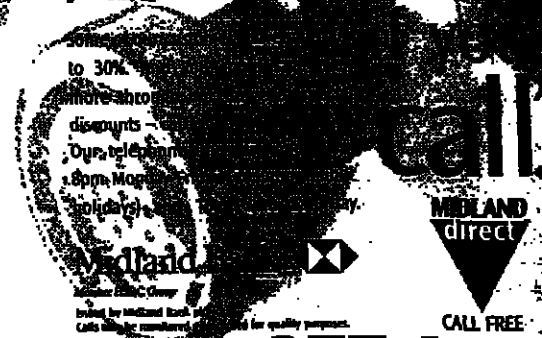
R.I.P. Off

by Edwin Brock

There was a job which went
Monday Tuesday Wednesday
Thursday Friday, as though
gold watches were hallmarked
St Peter with an eternal
guarantee; there was a bed
which went babies, toddlers
schoolboys, teenagers and
Goodbye; a woman whose waiting
went lover, wife, sister;
mother, furniture and saint;
alcohol, hangovers, trains,
tubes, buses and weeks of rain;
but there was nothing which
ever said This is all there is.

The Daily Poems for the rest of this week commemorate Edwin Brock, who died last month. Brock, who worked as a policeman, journalist and advertising copywriter, published nine collections of poetry, a novel and a memoir. Our choices all come from his *Five Ways to Kill a Man*: new and selected poetry, published by Enitharmon Press (£7.95).

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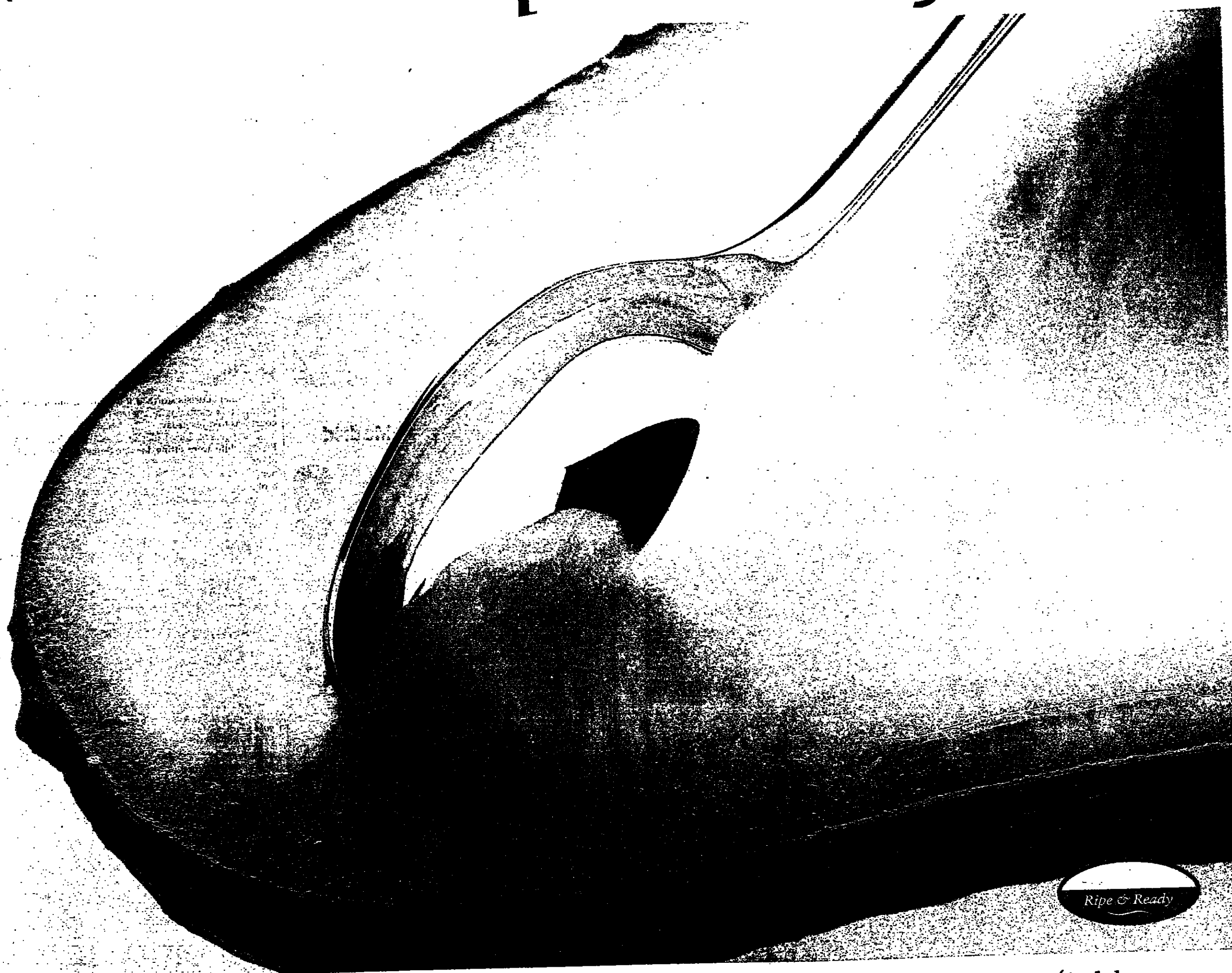
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Israeli 'terrorism' hands a gift to Egypt's Islamist rebels

The Gema'a Islamiya (Islamic movement), whose five-year armed crusade against President Mubarak's regime has cost at least 1,100 lives, has broken apart and the Egyptian government boasts it has won its war against the organisation. But as Robert Fisk reports from Cairo, Mubarak's enemies are continuing their struggle in upper Egypt while the president himself has been forced to condemn Israel for terrorism.

We were on the way to dinner at the Mena House Hotel's spectacularly successful Mogul Room restaurant, when a cluster of Egyptian cops appeared in the road; a routine checkpoint, three plain-clothes men and two white-uniformed police who waved us through when they saw my Egyptian host's suit and tie. He turned to me as he accelerated towards Giza. "You've got to admit, Robert, that our police have done a pretty good job of dealing with this problem."

I tried to forget the torture rooms three miles away in the Lazoughli Street security police headquarters, and muttered something about the number of condemned members of the Gema'a Islamiya who have been strung up in the past few years - by my count, 54 have gone to the gallows in Cairo and Alexandria.

But next morning, there was the usual tell-tale sign at the bottom of the local paper. "Minya militants behead policeman," it said. "In a pre-dawn attack, gunmen shot and beheaded Farouk Fawzi Tadros, 50, a Christian law enforcement agent in the village of Rida in Minya province ..."

Tadros, according to villagers, was a police informer, armed by the government - hence the odd phrase "law enforcement agent" - and his death came only weeks after the killing of three Gema'a men in his home village of Beni Ahmed. So much for "dealing" with Egypt's problems.

True, the Gema'a have been breaking apart for almost 12 months. Unprecedented appeals for a ceasefire have come from Muslim prisoners in their cages at the military courts and at the ferocious Torah jail complex. Last March, Sayed Khaled Ibrahim, the "emir" of the Gema'a in the upper Egyptian city of Aswan - accused with 27 others of planting attacks on the police - called for a truce. Then at the trial of 98 other alleged members of the or-



The aftermath of the gun and firebomb attack on a tourist bus outside the Cairo national museum, in which nine Germans and an Egyptian were killed
Photograph: Norbert Schiller/AP

with an attack on a Cairo tourist hotel in which they slaughtered 18 Greek holiday-makers; they had mistaken them for Israelis.

Then as Benjamin Netanyahu refused to halt the building of Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land and allowed his soldiers to bulldoze Palestinian homes - events shown in detail on Egyptian television - another attack was staged against tourists, this time taking the lives of nine Germans and an Egyptian outside the Cairo national museum. The Egyptian authorities later claimed that only two "deranged" men were involved, one of whom had murdered two American businessmen and a Frenchman four years previously. But witnesses said five gunmen assaulted the bus with petrol bombs and rifle-fire.

Then Israel sent two would-be murderers to Amman to kill a Hamas leader, both travelling on forged Canadian passports, an act of "terrorism" by Israel's own definition of the word - though applied by the Israelis, of course, only to Arabs. And yet again, Mr Mubarak had to out-shout the Gema'a in his condemnation of Israel. Having consistently referred to the Egyptian Islamists as "terrorists", the Egyptian foreign minister Amr Moussa now referred to Israeli "terrorism" in Amman.

Mr Mubarak himself personally attacked the Israeli leader. "To send Mossad people to kill someone in Jordan ... is utter chaos," he said. "The Israeli prime minister comes on CNN to justify it, saying he must run after terrorism anywhere in the world. If everybody did this, chaos will reign." Chaos has always been Mr Mubarak's nightmare in Egypt - which is why he also chose to remind Egyptians that the Cairo courts had jailed an Israeli Druze for 15 years for espionage.

But all this is window-dressing. For five years, the Gema'a has - largely ineffectively - been trying to persuade Egyptians that their government has made peace with a "terrorist" state. Now, courtesy of Mr Netanyahu, the Gema'a have some powerful arguments to prove them correct. And Mr Mubarak has to speak of those with whom his country is supposed to be at peace in the same words as he talks of his most brutal enemies.

organisation in July, Mohamed Abdul-Alim, sentenced to 15 years for attacks on policemen in Suez City, read out a declaration from the men imprisoned for their part in the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat. Previous appeals had included conditions for a truce: the implementation of Islamic sharia law, the release of Gema'a prisoners and the end of military trials. Abdul-Alim's request, however, contained no demands.

Sensing weakness rather than compromise, the Egyptian interior minister, Hassan al-Alfi - himself a target of the Gema'a - turned the appeal down. It was

a ruse, he said, designed to secure lighter sentences for "terrorists". And within days, news agencies in Cairo were receiving indignant faxes from the Gema'a in upper Egypt. The war would continue, they said. Abdul-Alim and his friends may have been blackmailed or tortured to make their ceasefire appeal. "We shall rejoice in the imminent victory which has already begun to emerge in Palestine, Lebanon, Chechnya and in Algeria from behind the mountains, and in Egypt from behind the sugar cane fields." Within a fortnight, six more Egyptian policemen were ambushed and killed.

True, the flat cane fields of upper Egypt - burned black by the security police to deprive the Gema'a of their ambush sites - are no match for the forests of Algeria in which the Islamic Armed Group have slaughtered so many innocents. And if the split in the Gema'a parallels the divisions within the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) - whose own call for a truce has been disputed by its exiled members and by some of its fighters - the two insurgencies are quite different. For while both sets of guerrillas have dedicated themselves to the overthrow of a regime which they regard as pro-Western

and corrupt, Egypt's Gema'a is also inspired by its antipathy towards Israel - especially when Israel infuriates ordinary Egyptians by bombarding Lebanon or building more settlements on Arab land.

And herein lies President Mubarak's predicament. As Israeli prime ministers take ever more aggressive steps against the Arabs who are supposed to be future allies, Mubarak's internal enemies become more powerful. When Shimon Peres launched his bloody assault on Lebanon in April last year, the Gema'a responded - by chance, only hours before the Israelis massacred 106 Lebanese refugees at Qana

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Royal visit hits India's raw nerve

The Queen's plan today to visit to Amritsar, scene of the 1919 massacre of Indian nationalists, is embroiled in controversy. Demands for an apology are mounting, while Britain's stand on Kashmir is under attack. Peter Popham, in New Delhi, finds the royal visit is turning into a jamboree of grievances.

KR Narayanan, the journalist-turned-diplomat who is now President of India, came up with a resonant phrase. The exhibition of British Museum treasures entitled "The Enduring Image" which he and the Queen had just opened was, he said, "a refutation of the idea that civilisations clash. It is not civilisations that clash, but barbarisms."

So the war of words that has broken out between the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and the Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral over Kashmir is a clash of barbarisms. Mr Cook is accused of stirring it in informal chats with Pakistani journalists at a reception in Islamabad, urging Britain's involvement in negotiations over Kashmir's future - but he denies having said anything about Kashmir while in Pakistan.

Then yesterday at a private meeting in Cairo, Mr Gujral supposedly told Egyptian intellectuals that Britain was a "third-rate power", which "has no business to play any role in this issue in any form, since in any case it was responsible for the partition of the country."

Raj buffy will have noticed the cutting choice of the phrase "third-rate power", for it was Viceroy Lord Curzon who declared that if Britain were ever to lose India it would decline to a third-rate power. However,

er, that is all by the by, as the Ministry of External Affairs denied that Mr Gujral had said anything of the sort - though not before his alleged remarks were all over India's pages and the world's television screens. Whoever was responsible, it seemed an odd way to put out the welcome mat.

It all served to emphasise the contrast with the royal visit to Pakistan. It was Pakistan - so Pakistan claims - which extended the invitation to the Queen to visit the sub-continent, and she was welcomed there with an outpouring of Anglophilia. In India, however, the grudges are mounting up.

Yesterday, Sikhs demonstrated in central Delhi against the British army's ban on the wearing of turbans, and were dispersed by watercannon. The Samajwadi party demanded the return of all treasures removed from India during British rule. Mr Gujral's imaginary broadside threatens to turn the royal visit into a jamboree of grievances.

The Queen took it all in her stride. At Lutyens's sublime masterpiece, the presidential palace, the cannons boomed out their hollow welcome.

At Raj Ghat, down by the Yamuna River, where Mohandas Gandhi was cremated after his assassination in 1948, the Queen laid a wreath and signed the visitors' book.

At Mohammad Ali Jinnah's mausoleum in Karachi on Thursday she had signed her name and left it at that. Significantly, at this shrine she wrote a veritable encomium. "Mahatma Gandhi showed throughout his life a tolerance, mutual understanding and respect, virtues as important today as then," she wrote. "His example should remain an inspiration to us now and in the future."

The Queen is doing everything she can to make India like her. But so far it does not seem to be working.



Activists from the Leftist Party of India clashing with police during protests in New Delhi yesterday against the Queen's visit to India. Today the Queen will lay a wreath at Jallianwalla Bagh, scene of a massacre by British troops of Indian civilians

Photograph: AP

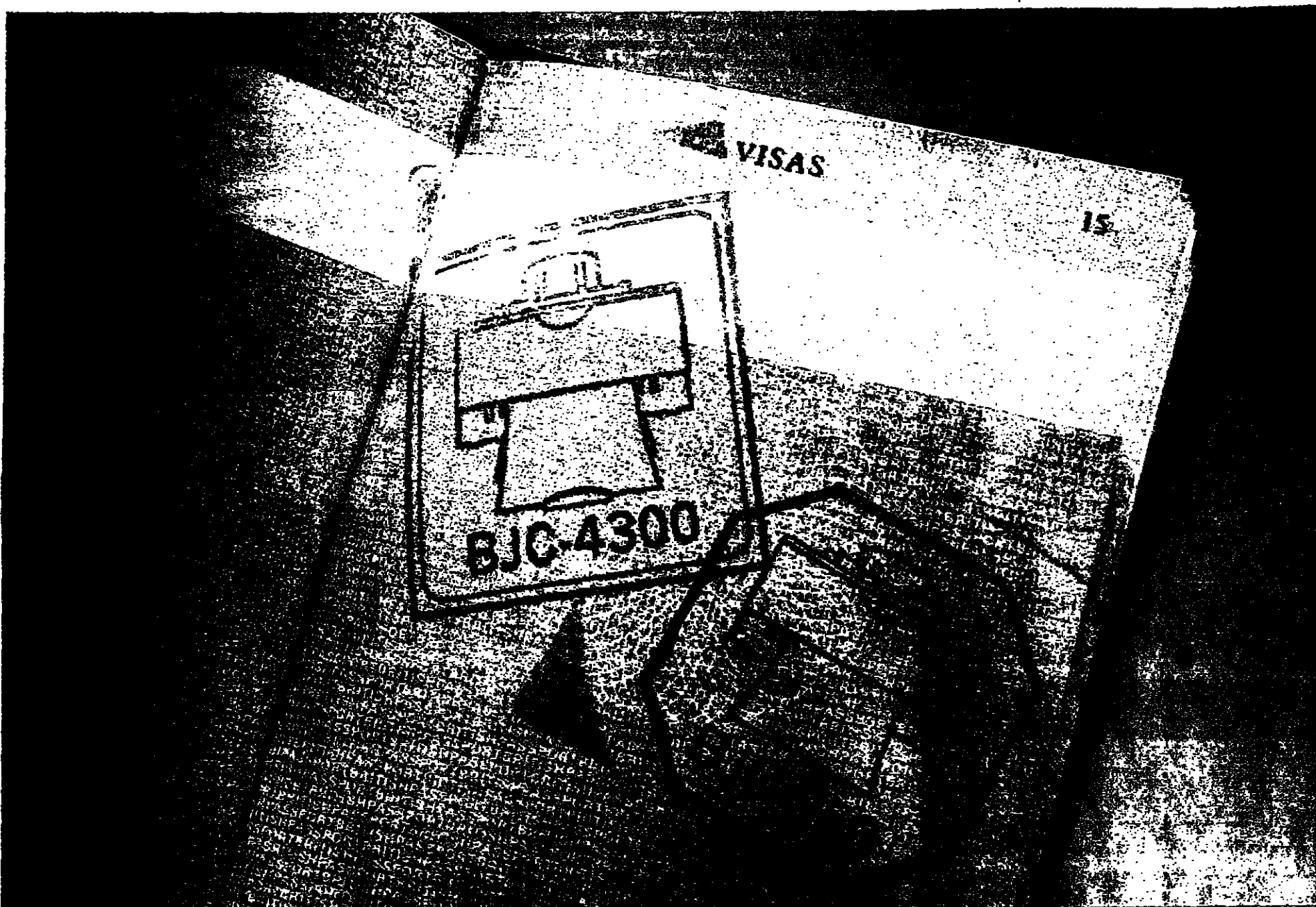
Korean leader's son fined £1m

A South Korean court yesterday sentenced President Kim Young-sam's second son to three years in jail and fined him 1.44 billion won (£1m) for bribery and tax evasion.

Kim, 38, was charged with taking kickbacks worth 3.22 billion won in return for favours, and evading taxes on the 3.39 billion won he took as gifts. He had said that the funds were donations to finance a future parliamentary campaign. Chief Judge Sohn Ji-yeol said the judges believed Kim Hyun-chul had failed in his duties as the son of an incumbent president.

The President's son was head of an organisation that helped make Kim Young-sam the first civilian to be elected president in South Korea in more than four decades. His arrest and trial has damaged the credibility of his father, who has been reduced to a lame duck ahead of presidential elections on 18 December.

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Britain defies Libya at Lockerbie hearing

Britain faced Libya across the International Court of Justice yesterday and defended its hunt for the bombers of the New-York-bound Pan Am Flight 103, which crashed over Lockerbie nearly nine years ago, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground. Britain and the United States will present a united front during the eight days of hearings. Both have filed counter-motions rejecting Libya's application and contend that the world court does not have jurisdiction over the case.

Mugabe defends land grab

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said his government would not compensate white farmers for land it planned to take to resettle thousands of peasants. "We are going to take the land and we are not going to pay a cent," Mr Mugabe was quoted as saying. In the past he has threatened to forcibly seize white-owned commercial farms without compensating the owners. The government has earmarked vast tracts of property under a controversial 1992 law which gives it power to forcibly take the land.

Algeria admits rebel strength

In an unprecedented admission, an Algerian general conceded that the Islamic insurgency has not been crushed. "Terrorism is in no way vanquished," several Algerian newspapers quoted the general in charge of an offensive in the Ouled Allet district as saying. The unnamed general said that 33 insurgents and two leaders had been killed since the start of the operation 28 September. He said that four soldiers were killed and six others wounded.

Kurds erupt into civil war after peace talks collapse

The civil war between rival Kurdish factions in the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan again erupted early yesterday, breaking a year-old ceasefire.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, backed by Iran, launched an offensive aimed at driving the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party from the strategic town of Shaqlawa.

The war restarted after the failure of a Foreign Office conference between leaders of the two parties in London last week. An attack by Jalal Talabani, leader of the PUK, on the same positions last year led Massoud Barzani, leader of the KDP, to call in the Iraqi army. The KDP said in a statement that the PUK launched a "major offensive" against it, break-

ing the ceasefire brokered by the US, Britain and Turkey. The PUK confirmed the clashes, but said it was acting defensively.

Mr Talabani's attack has been joined by other enemies of Mr Barzani, such as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and Turkish Kurd guerrillas, whom he has been fighting in alliance with the Turkish army during its periodic invasions of Iraqi Kurdistan. His aim is to force Mr Barzani to evacuate his headquarters at Salabudin.

If he does, Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, may intervene. If President Saddam were to engage in a prolonged intervention, President Bill Clinton would be under pressure to use US airpower.

— Patrick Cockburn

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Kohl's crowning moment fails to ignite party faithful

Europe's longest-serving leader was endorsed yesterday as the German Christian Democrats' candidate for a fifth term. However, Helmut Kohl's "coronation feast" was a tepid affair. At the CDU conference in Leipzig, Inge Karcs hears a swelling chorus of demands for change.



Kohl: A standing ovation, but the knives are out

The records will show that Chancellor Kohl received a respectable two-minute standing ovation after his keynote speech. "I ask you, dear friends, to place your trust in me," he concluded, and, as if woken from a trance, 1,000 Christian Democrats rose slowly to their feet.

They put their hands together to make a noise, but there was just no rhythm to their clapping, no bravos, no hurrahs. Even to his followers, the prospect of a fifth term for Old King Kohl did not seem all that electrifying.

For 90 minutes, the Chan-

cellor tried to keep them awake. He spoke like a Christian Democrat of old, about morality, social justice, and the dangers represented by the "globalisation" of unbridled capitalism. "We are not the party of the market economy," he declared. "We are the party of the social market economy."

He attacked the "left", meaning the Greens and the Social Democrats, and positioned his party in the political centre. The economy was booming, and jobs would be created galore - eventually. The opposition were to blame for the legislative gridlock pre-

venting the implementation of urgent reforms, especially in taxation. He had said all those things before. "This is the third time I had heard this speech in the past week," confided the prime minister of one of the eastern Länder. The Chancellor had apparently tried it on party grandees before rattling it off for the Leipzig audience.

Some were not impressed. Much was expected of the *Junge Wilde*, the rebels who had been openly calling for new blood in recent months. Klaus Escher, the chairman of the CDU's youth wing, came closest to mounting an open attack. "We need a horizon beyond 1998," he told delegates.

Before the conference, Mr Escher had been more specific. Even if Mr Kohl were to win, he said, the Chancellor's hands should be prised off the party reins. Yesterday, Mr Escher conceded defeat and announced he was folding his tent for the duration of the election campaign. But he continued his critical barrage, especially against the government's appalling jobs record. In Britain and the Netherlands, Mr Escher told delegates, the shops had "help wanted" signs

on their doors. "On German shops the sign says: 'To let'." He bemoaned the "deficit of ideas" on government benches. After the elections, he said, there has to be a discussion over "how one hands over the baton".

That may be a little unkind to a man who is only 67, has won power four times, and who has every chance of winning again in elections due next September. But despite economic growth heading for 3 per cent, unemployment is still rising, and the government appears powerless to reverse the tide. The structural reforms promised by Mr Kohl 15 years ago remain just that: a promise.

Thanks to the opposition's own goals - the Greens have just unveiled their election manifesto, which calls for the dissolution of Nato - Mr Kohl's party are favourites to win next year. Never in post-war history have Germans voted a Chancellor out of office. That task is usually reserved for the party faithful. As the Christian Democrats' love affair with Helmut Kohl turns stale, regime becomes increasingly allying. Such talk must, however, be suspended for the moment. The Chancellor must win first.



A Georgian policeman arresting a protester at a rally in Tbilisi yesterday. About 500 people had gathered to pay homage to the Georgian national hero Merab Kostava on the eighth anniversary of his death. Photograph: AP

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Italian coalition offers olive leaf to Communists

Leaders of the caretaker Prime Minister Romano Prodi's centre-left coalition said yesterday that they were willing to compromise with hard-line Communists in order to form a new government. The Communist Refoundation party responded to the offer by giving its leader Fausto Bertinotti the go-ahead to begin negotiations.

Mr Prodi's Olive Tree coalition said it would ask Communist Refoundation to approve the budget as proposed to parliament last week in exchange for changes to other parts of their programme, such as the introduction of a 35-hour working week.

Mr Prodi quit last week, after Refoundation refused to back the budget plan which includes \$3bn (£1.8bn) in pension and other spending cuts, which the government deems vital if Italy is to enter the European economic and monetary union.

The Olive Tree coalition warned to Mr Bertinotti following a meeting with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, during which they asked him to reconfirm Mr Prodi as prime minister. "We think that we can and we must rebuild the parliamentary majority which emerged from the April 1996 elections," said Mauro Paissan, leader of the Greens party.

President Scalfaro has said he will decide by today whether to call early elections, ask Mr Prodi to try to form another coalition, or give the task to someone else.

Quake sends Greeks rushing into the streets

A strong earthquake shook Athens and south-western Greece yesterday, shaking buildings and sending people in coastal towns running from their homes. There were no initial reports of damage, but the Athens Seismological Institute (ASI) said the tremor registered a relatively strong 5.5 on the Richter scale. The ASI said the quake's epicentre was 150 miles south-south-west of Athens, about 60 miles into the sea. Police said people in Pargos and Kalamata, which have been hit by destructive quakes before, ran out of their homes and stood in the street fearing that buildings would collapse.

Centre takes over in Norway

Norway's Labour minority government resigned, paving the way for Kjell Magne Bondevik and a new three-party centrist coalition to take power. The Labour Prime Minister, Thorbjørn Jagland, announced the resignation of his 12-month-old government to parliament after it had presented the draft budget for 1998. Mr Jagland had said he would stand down after the Labour Party failed to win a self-imposed target of 36.9 per cent of the popular vote in last month's general election. King Harald V asked Mr Bondevik, of the Christian People's Party, to form a new government.

France bans 'hit squad' book

A Paris court ordered a halt to sales of a book alleging two former cabinet ministers ordered the murder of a member of parliament almost four years ago. The civil court, responding to an appeal by former defence minister François Léotard for censorship of the book about the death of Yann Piat in February 1994, ordered a suspension of distribution and sales until 24 October. The book alleges Mr Léotard and former urban affairs minister Jean-Claude Gaudin ordered Ms Piat's killing by a secret hit squad after she uncovered plans to sell plots of army land to the Mafia.

Belgian MP assaulted girls

A member of parliament for the Belgian extreme right-wing Vlaams Blok party was given a six-month suspended jail sentence for indecent assault on two teenage girls. Xavier Buisseret was also stripped of his civil rights for five years. Buisseret was accused of having sexually molested the two daughters of another Vlaams Blok party member in 1992 and 1993 when he was secretary of the party's youth division. One of the girls was 17 and her sister younger than 16.

Terror attacks greet trial of Basque leaders

Spanish courts have put 23 Basque political leaders on trial over alleged support for terrorism. Elizabeth Nash in Madrid says the action may undermine the wave of public revulsion against the separatists' violent tactics.

The Supreme Court trial of 23 leaders of the pro-Eta Herri Batasuna party opened yesterday in Madrid, amid seething tension in the Basque Country where a number of terrorist attacks took place at the weekend.

Yesterday afternoon in Bilbao, a police officer was shot in the shoulder while guarding the new Guggenheim Museum which opens on Saturday.

The entire leadership of the HB party, which won 12 per cent of Basque votes in general elections in March last year, is charged with "collaborating with

an armed gang" by issuing an election video calling for the government to talk to Eta gunmen.

The trial was postponed from last Monday when HB's defence claimed unsuccessfully that one of the three judges was biased. Yesterday HB called for the trial to be suspended, or shifted to the Basque Country, because of "an atmosphere of pressure in favour of a conviction". The defence says HB's position in the campaign video - which showed masked, armed men urging their vision of "alternative democracy" - was already public knowledge.

The Interior Minister, Jaime Mayor Oreja, said in a newspaper interview: "I have the moral and political certainty that Eta is HB and HB is Eta." But he added: "I cannot say whether there is a judicial reason to apply a criminal action to HB."

The 23 each face eight years' jail, if found guilty. They are also accused of defending terrorism by publicly supporting Eta's assassination in 1996 of two

prominent legal figures. The killings sent a wave of revulsion throughout Spain, prefiguring the eruption on to the streets of millions this summer over the murder of the local politician Miguel Angel Blanco.

The conservative Basque nationalist leader, Xabier Arzalluz, whose party backs Jose Maria Aznar's government, condemned the trial as politically motivated. The persistent fusillade of terrorist attacks in the Basque Country continued at the weekend, when a car bomb on Saturday wounded four National Guardsmen in San Sebastian. On Sunday, two Basque policemen were attacked with petrol bombs and suffered burns after a pro-HB demonstration in Bilbao.

The 23, who are all free on bail, have requested that the Supreme Court to conduct morning-only sessions so they can return to their Basque homes each night. They complain that hotels around Madrid refuse them lodgings.

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Does this man understand something about back pain that nobody else knows?



Alexander Walker-Naddell rejected the conventional representation of spinal anatomy
Photograph: Colin McPherson

As anyone with back trouble knows, all cures, or even half-cures, are gratefully received. Chloe Leland's story of vertebral discs and one man's belief that you don't need them.

Today my mother sneezed without it hurting her for the first time in over a year; this is because she has undergone a revolutionary cure for two slipped discs. The non-surgical method, administered by a distinguished Glaswegian surgeon, involved nothing more complicated than a jab of local anaesthetic and a few brief sessions on his couch.

Alexander Walker-Naddell, a consultant orthopaedic and neurosurgeon, developed his technique after years in which he became increasingly dissatisfied with the results of conventional surgery for back problems.

At 87, he is one of Britain's oldest practising doctors, with a private orthopaedic surgery in the centre of Glasgow. He numbers Stanley Baxter, Max Bygraves and the Scottish golfing star, Craig Breedlove, among the many celebrities to whom he has brought relief from back pain.

Before her remarkably brief encounter with Mr Naddell my mother, aged 50, had undergone traction, chiropractic and osteopathic treatment for two severely slipped discs in her lower back. She had slept on hard beds, soft beds and in various contorted positions, but with no result other than continuous, debilitating pain.

She was finally told by a highly reputable neurologist that she would need surgery to remove the discs and replace them with metal plates in an operation known as a laminectomy. She could look forward to a six-month, bed-ridden convalescence with less than a 50 per cent chance of successful recovery. For a woman who lives for and thrives on physical activity, the prospect of never being allowed to garden or to take long walks in the countryside again was both terrifying and depressing.

There was even a risk of paralysis, which sometimes results from a vertebral column operation. As a family we ended up discussing her will over dinner and what action she would want us to take if the operation was to go wrong. Then enter Mr Naddell and, as if by magic, today my mother has just charged off up her favourite hill without even a twinge of pain.

Mr Naddell developed his technique at Glasgow Royal Infirmary nearly 40 years ago, after spending a decade dissecting bodies in the hospital's pathology department. "I didn't accept the anatomy of the spine as it was presented to me in the books," he comments, "so I had to find out for myself".

His research led to an astounding discovery. "I studied thousands of bodies and found that many of them did not have any vertebral discs. I then contacted their families and found that 90 per cent of the deceased had never experienced back problems. We do not need our discs; they are not an essential part of one's anatomy."

Mr Naddell maintains that the discs are not, as is com-

monly thought, the shock-absorbers of the spine, but the vestigial remnants of a primitive structure seen only in the foetus. The shock-absorbing role referred to is actually played by the fibrous ligaments surrounding the discs. These are made up of rings of cartilage which act as a coil or spring between the opposing vertebrae.

A slipped disc can be caused by constant wear and tear or a sudden strain on the back. It is the protrusion of the jelly-like substance which forms the disc through a tear in the ligament, which causes pain if it strikes a nerve root. By removing the disc, the pain is eradicated.

Mr Naddell's technique is simple. His consulting room is small, cosy, and festooned with military medals and he welcomed us in a relaxed manner with a smile. He required no X-rays or description of previous diagnoses made by other consultants, informing us that "I must make my own investigations or I wouldn't be giving it my best shot".

During his investigations and the whole of his treatment, my mother never even had to remove her shoes; she simply had to hold up her jumper so that he could examine her back. Then, using the largest, fleshiest thumb that I have ever seen, resulting from Mr Naddell's days as a champion student boxer, he proceeded to diagnose the condition using only touch, describing the symptoms that the neurologist and orthopaedic surgeons had required scans to detect.

The only instruments that he uses other than his thumbs are a hammer to test reflexes, aiding his diagnoses, and a syringe to inject a local anaes-

thetic into the affected area. "There does not need to be any fuss. It seems to me an unfortunate medical practice that, in order only to confirm a diagnosis, one should actually aggravate the condition one is about to try and clear up. I don't believe it is necessary to cause further pain to the patient with my diagnosis and treatment."

The treatment involves slow strong pressure on the disc with his fleshy thumb. By using the jagged edges of the ligament through which the disc is poking, he simply breaks off the protruding piece of vertebral disc. Now cut off from its food supply, this will then waste away.

Next, on an orthopaedic couch disguised by a tartan rug (her shoes still on), he begins to gradually straighten out my mother's spine, through manipulation of her leg and pelvis. Throughout the treatment Mr Naddell chats about the weather: although it is raining, he comments "the sun is shining somewhere", and we leave the surgery after only 30 minutes.

We return for five more 15 minute sessions over three days, but my mother's spinal pain has disappeared after only the second session. Between the treatments, she has to undertake specific exercises four times a day to encourage any remnants of the discs to slip out of the ligaments so that Mr Naddell can break off the protrusions, until all the offending discs have been removed. She is then given a training programme to carry out for at least two weeks after the treatment.

The treatment seemed so painless and undramatic that it has taken some time for my

mother and I to be finally convinced that it has worked. But the continuing lack of pain and the file full of letters from patients thanking Mr Naddell for his treatment substantiate his claims of a high success rate. "I've been practising for nearly 40 years now and my very first patients are still fit and healthy. I have letters of thanks here from thousands of patients from the four corners of the globe. I rely wholly on word of mouth and my reputation because the medical profession are not allowed to advertise."

He remains, however, disheartened that his technique has not been more widely taken up. "I have said to many surgeons, 'show me a perfect, surgical result as good as mine and I'll change my methods' - and they never have. I don't know why they won't listen to me. They continue to put this ironmongery into people's backs. Bone and metal just don't mix."

As proof, Mr Naddell thrusts a letter at us from a reputable Glaswegian orthopaedic surgeon which states that, following examination of one of Naddell's patients, "there is no indication for any surgical investigation or intervention at this stage. Indeed, if I had operated upon this patient myself I would regard this as a very good result." Many other surgeons have shown an interest in Naddell's work but as yet there has been no scientific trial of his simple technique.

He will not give up, however. As we leave his consulting room for the last time, he promises, with his usual beaming smile: "I will never retire. When I go, I will go with my boots on."



DR PHIL HAMMOND

Sixty years ago teaching hospitals hid sub-Minstrel singers and slash-happy surgeons: so what progress have we made since then?

Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou to John Lord, the eagle-eyed sub-librarian at the University of London library. Back in July, I published a letter from a retired doctor who reminisced about his time as a "Christmas Nigger" at Guy's Hospital. I subsequently received a small clutch of hate mail from Guy's alumni denouncing the letter as a fraud and berating me for besmirching the good name of the flagship of the Tory reforms. Well, John was flicking through some old periodicals when he stumbled on Guy's Hospital Gazette, Vol. 1 (New Series) 1936 (p7).

"The Niggers, Christmas, 1935: The group of coloured gentlemen gathered before a camera on the steps of the Colonnade on the morning of Christmas Day were not, as we heard an old lady suppose, distinguished visitors being introduced to the hospital by its chaplains. It is true, however, that in a sense they were missionaries. They were, in fact (reader, you have guessed it), the 'Niggers' performing their annual mirth mission."

What follows is a five-page review, including a photograph of 29 boot-blackened Guy's doctors. To be fair, the racism doesn't permeate further into the act except for a tendency for these white, ex-public schoolboys to refer to each other as "Massa". Their songs "warned us in the first verse and brought us to fever pitch in the second" and had a distinctly macho flavour, eg:

Oh! We do like to open the abdomen, / Oh! We do like to play with all the guts, / Oh we do like to see the blood go splash, splash, splash / As the RSO goes slash, slash, slash. / So just send us up your favourite pa-

tient / We'll wield a very pretty knife / Four we are four house wizards / And we'll whip out all your gizzards / We're doing service, we're saving life.

Have you guessed the tune? Of course all this was more than 60 years ago, when every teaching hospital may have had a sub-Minstrel singing troupe and it was perfectly acceptable for unsupervised junior surgeons to go slash slash slash and whip out your gizzards. But what progress have we made since then?

Guy's medical school has now merged with St Thomas' and both have a sufficiently enlightened admissions policy that no-one need use stage make-up to effect a multicultural mix. But racism remains a big problem in medicine. In 1992, Drs Sam Everington and Aneez Esmail sent fake applications to junior hospital doctor posts, identical in all but surname. Half were Asian, half Anglo-Saxon. The latter were twice as likely to get an interview. The research was repeated this year, with marginally less depressing results.

The pair also discovered that the GMC was six times more likely to discipline an ethnic minority doctor than a white doctor. This was not due to a persecution of ethnic minority doctors, but rather that white doctors are far more likely to get away with misconduct. This research led to an internal inquiry within the GMC and a number of "racial awareness" reforms.

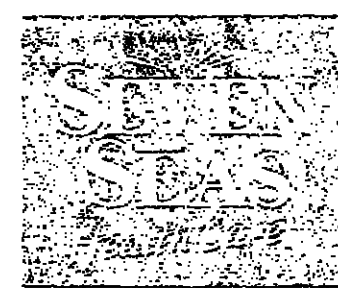
At present, 23 per cent of all NHS hospital doctors come from ethnic minorities, yet only a handful of these reach consultant grade - while 69 per cent of staff grade posts (the consultants' skivvies) have non-white occupants. And if non-

white doctors do make it to consultant their chance of picking up a lucrative merit award is a quarter that of white peers. The legacy lives on.

As for slash-happy surgeons, the image is perhaps a little unfair. The majority are as diligent as their experience and training will allow. In the Niggers' day, you could learn from your mistakes because patients didn't rise again in the mortuary (well, not often) and relatives didn't sue. Today, doctors are expected to get it right first time, every time. In a surgical context, the minimum requirement should be that the surgeon is competent to operate. Alas, audit is so backward in medicine that many surgeons have little insight into how competent they are - or if they do, they don't share it with the patients.

In June, Professor Janet Wilson from the University of Newcastle published a national survey that found that two thirds of all operations performed by surgeons in training are unassisted - even major operations being done for the first time. Senior house officers (hardly experienced surgeons) were left alone to do their first salivary gland excisions, hernia repairs and stomach, spleen and gall bladder removals with their senior "support" not even present in the hospital.

Most operations went surprisingly well, others didn't. But in all cases the surgeon couldn't give the patient the prior undertaking that he was competent to perform the operation or would be closely assisted by someone who was. This seems a bizarre and ultimately very unsettling state of affairs. Far less stressful to lie back, think of England and sing along with the Niggers...



apparent reason? Some women suffer this kind of stress several days of every month...

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"When I felt at my worst, we never really talked about it. I know that the kids and my husband walked round on eggshells for ten days every month, and there'd be these whispers about 'Mum's hormones' but none of us said much about it."

Anne, 34, Portsmouth

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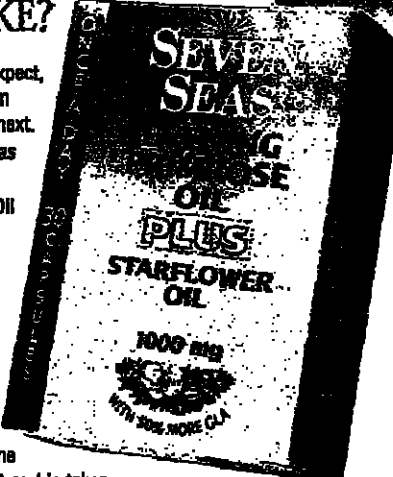
Some experts believe that an imbalance of oestrogen and progesterone is the cause of many symptoms. If hormones through your cycle you are producing too much oestrogen and too little progesterone, you may suffer from the following symptoms shown here. From one or more of the following symptoms, you may be suffering from hormone imbalance.

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For example, skin may become dull and dry, split ends can appear, and nails can start to flake and become brittle.

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VITAL SIGNS

Poly fat is exactly that Fat babies rarely turn into fat adults. A study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that only 8 per cent of obese infants were also obese as adults. By contrast, the study found that children who were obese at 10-14 years had 75 per cent probability of remaining so in adult life.

Not fungi to be with A toxic drink made from mushrooms and sold in healthfood shops has been associated with toxic side effects by US

researchers. Writing in the *Journal of Internal Medicine*, they describe four cases where people were admitted to hospital after drinking Kombucha tea, which comes from the mushroom of the same name. One woman developed jaundice; another reported dizziness, nausea, vomiting and headaches.

Cancer treatment risks According to studies by epidemiologists in Europe and the US, of 29,000 testicular cancer survivors, 1,406 developed a second cancer - 1.43 times

the expected number. Writing in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, they link second cancers in the stomach and bladder to radiotherapy treatment for testicular cancer, and cases of leukaemia to chemotherapy and radiotherapy. They raise particular concern about cisplatin, a drug in use for testicular cancer, as it persists "in numerous tissues long after treatment is completed." They stress the need to monitor the carcinogenic effects of treatment, as a preventive measure.

Cherrill Hicks

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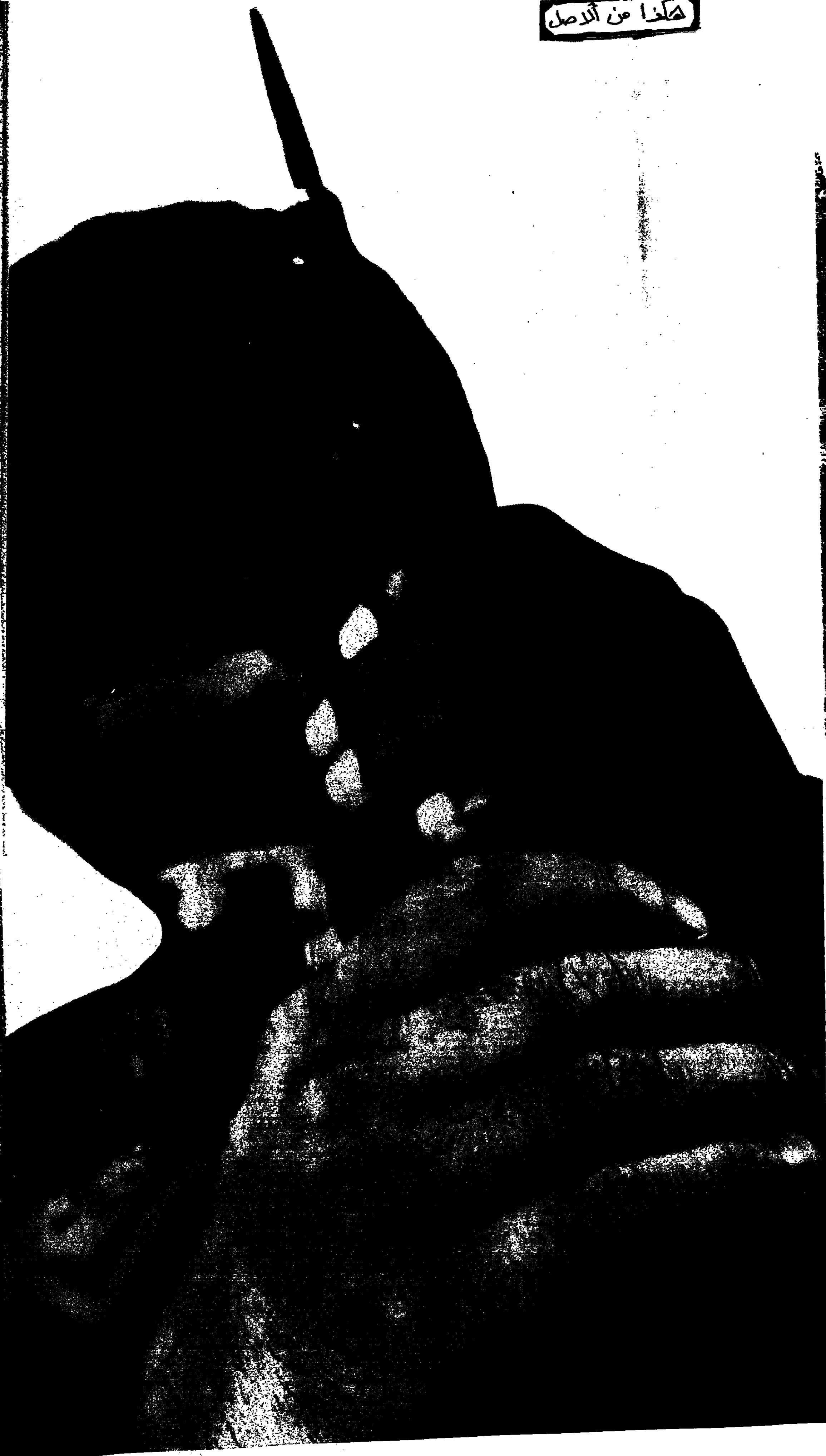
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Is there still life in the 20th century?

A furry tea-cup, a shiny vinyl typewriter, a bicycle wheel mounted on a kitchen stool, a basket-ball hanging in salt water. What do they have in common? That's a question the Hayward's latest show doesn't quite answer.

Picasso's painting *Still Life with Pitcher and Apples* shows a piece of sexed-up tableware. The jug is made woman, its texture rendered as if it was the heavy flesh of one of his neo-classical fannies, its slow curves and protuberant bulges formed into suggestions of neck and breasts, or waist and buttock. But these transformations are quite tactfully done, just a slightly more explicit version of the sort of body-metaphors that are present in much old still-life painting. A still life it undoubtedly remains.

Meret Oppenheim's surreal *Object* is another piece of sexed-up tableware. Its tea-cup, saucer and tea-spoon are made woman, all furled with a covering of fur, giving the receptacle maybe a pubic hairiness, certainly allowing all sorts of connections and jolts to happen between smoothness and roughness, use and ornament, the domestic and the erotic. But, of course, though Magritte might have painted a furry cup, this isn't a painting, it's a real object. And is it still a still life?

How much does it matter that its body-metaphors are not got by visual persuasion, but by a straight juxtaposition of materials and their associations? Or that there's no real tradition of still-life sculpture for it to find a place in? And then, how about Duchamp's junction of a bicycle wheel and a kitchen stool, or Warhol's painting of blank rows of labelled soup-tins, or Oldenburg's soft typewriter made of shiny vinyl, or Jeff Koon's basket-ball suspended in a tank of salt-water - are these things still lifes too?

I'm not sure I know how to answer those questions, and I probably wouldn't have asked them or thought they were worth asking if it weren't for "Objects of Desire: The Modern Still Life", an exhibition organised by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, which now fills the whole of the Hayward Gallery in London. The still life - from Cézanne to now - is the plan, and naturally there's a lot of work where the

genre-label is unarguable or at least arguable - Cubist still lifes, Surrealist still lifes, Metaphysical still lifes, Purist still lifes, Matisse still lifes. Anyone who just wants painting has more than enough to fill an afternoon.

And then there's a lot besides: for example, all those works mentioned above, ready-mades and found or altered objects. Pop art reproductions, neo-Pop constructions. For the range and abundance of its contents this is certainly a show to be seen. Indeed, by its eclecticism, which allows it to include almost all the big names and chapter headings of the century (abstraction being the big exception), it can extract from the "still life" rubric what's virtually a little history of modern art.

But even a little history of modern art is a large and complicated thing. To praise the exhibition as a whole for its range isn't wholly praise. This is not a permanent collection, to be visited and revisited over the years. And a show where the viewer is asked to turn on an aesthetic sixpence at every corner (for such is the history of modern art) can't but encourage inattention to individual exhibits, in favour of a gliding wonder over the kaleidoscopic array, the great party that's been got together. All these things - all still lifes? Well, fancy! What that? And that too?

"Objects of Desire" has too much of an eye on itself as an embracing spectacle. It offers a drama of the one and the many: the one genre and its many, many different examples, with the anthologist's glee at the sheer variety of things that can (at a pinch) be brought under one roof, which tends to reduce everything to being one more example. There's also a drama of estrangement. Rather as Magritte, in one of his paintings here, gets a mind-bending charge from labelling a leaf as "le table" and a jug as "le fruit", so there's a pleasing strain in looking at (say) one of Jasper Johns's flag-paintings, also here, and trying to call it "la nature morte" - ooh, a just-about, sort-of, stretch-the-point still life. It doesn't quite figure, and that's the kick. And so what?

It's not a matter of defending the purity of the genre against intrusions, or of dissing the Jasper Johns (though the particular flag-painting shown isn't painted so intensely as some other versions). It's simply that it's hard to see what is gained by putting it in hopeful dialogue with pictures by Gris or Miró or Léger or Morandi. More or less ingenious connections can be drawn, as can be drawn between anything and anything. A very general heading of "everyday objects removed from their

everyday setting" can be applied to every work in the show, from Cézanne's tabletop landscape to Warhol's "Brillo Boxes" (if, that is, you're prepared to be very flexible with the meanings of "everyday" and "removed"). But a lot of big differences

get suppressed in the process. I think that's the object, though. The idea is to smooth art history out. I don't deny that following the course of still life turns up some good history too, particularly around Cubism. Cubism was large-

ly invented on still life (the easiest subject to have your pictorial way with). It was cubist still life that invented collage (the bits and pieces of real stuff that Picasso and Gris started to stick to their paintings). It was Cubism that invented true still-life sculpture (like Boccioni's bronze *Development of a Bottle in Space*). And, if you will, these things can be seen to segue into various lines of found-image and found-object work.

René Magritte's 'Portrait', 1935: a representative slice of Surrealist still life or just an example of a show with too much of an eye on itself as all-embracing spectacle?

Photo: Museum of Modern Art, New York



But there it seems more important to insist that what Duchamp did and what Warhol did really were ruptures, and that what's presented here is an essentially excellent history of modernism. Still life is being used in this capacious way to make things hold together. The approach is very characteristic of the New York Museum of Modern Art, which has always sought to subvert both conservative fears and radical hopes that 20th-century art has exploded in all directions, in favour of keeping the show on the road, as a lively but unbroken relay of bright ideas. This is friendly, but it's false.

What's more, this approach tends to minimise the main benefit that any anthology offers: turning up obscurities. The show is so keen to bring all the famous names under its umbrella, to prove that still life is a big central story of modern art, that it doesn't have much room for real finds. But there are a few good ones (relative to my own ignorance, of course), mostly in the later rooms. There's Robert Rauschenberg's perilously stacked pile of giant-sized dishes and bowls, for instance, and Mario Merz's very simple, joyful, harvest-festival-spirited *Spiral Table* - a spiral of metal trellises heaped with fresh fruit and veg.

And the exhibition has a lovely end in Wolfgang Laib's *Milkstone*, a large low tray of pure white marble, filled up to the very rim with milk, so that what's solid surface and what's liquid surface tension are held in nearly indistinguishable stasis (though an old Eric and Ernie routine involving kettle drums comes to mind too).

Perhaps, by this point, most viewers won't be thinking about "The Modern Still Life", in all its likely and unlikely guises, at all - just treating the show as a generous miscellany from which to take their pick. Really, that would be the best starting position too.

10am-6pm daily (Tue/Wed to 8pm), until 4 January, Hayward Gallery, SBC, London SE1. Tickets £5. Booking: 0171-960 4242. Sponsored by BMW.

Bridge to Utopia or blue ride to hell?

A comprehensive exhibition of Expressionism - from brutal introspection to colourful optimism - is

on display in Venice. Andrew Lambirth happily recommends the dark and dangerous journey in search of the soul.

The Expressionists tried to create images that conveyed states of mind. They went all-out for an emotional impact, achieved by way of exaggeration and distortion. In 1905 a group calling

itself *Die Brücke*, or The Bridge (to the future), was formed by Kirchner, Heckel and Schmidt-Rottluff, amongst others. This was the real beginning of Expressionism. Another sub-group calling itself *Die Blaue Reiter*, or The Blue Rider, came into existence in 1911 under the leadership of Kandinsky and Marc. They painted from "compelling inner necessity" and hoped for a harmony between life and art. The attitude was spiritual and idealistic. Before the First World War shattered so many illusions, they strove for Utopia, although, with hindsight, the Expressionist goal seems more like its opposite - an angry hell of festering selfhood, of suffering and brutalisation. Going inward in search of the soul was a dangerous journey. Several artists, like Kirchner, suffered mental breakdown en route.

In Venice now, at the Palazzo Grassi, is a remarkable show of German Expressionism. The Palazzo Grassi, designed in 1740 by the distinguished Venetian architect Giorgio Massari, was bought by Fiat in 1984 and lavishly restored. A series of seminal exhibitions has since been staged there, ranging from "The Phoenixians" to "Andy Warhol", and all emanating from Fiat's impressive role in cultural sponsorship.

"German Expressionism" starts out with a room of troubled and melancholy self-portraits. The very first you see is by Otto Dix, a harsh depiction of himself as a soldier, all bestial sneered paint like bloodied mud. Here the long dark night of the Northern self finds expression; how very far from the sunny rationalities of Mediterranean classicism. A wonderful low-key self-portrait by Oskar Kokoschka depicts him as wistful to the point of being terrified. But there had to be some relief from introspection, and many of these artists went off to paint and frolic on Baltic beaches. Otto Muller, Max Pechstein and Kirchner all did successful *al fresco* studies. One



Beauty only skin deep: in Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's 'Five Women on the Street' there is a sharp edge of danger beneath the flaunting and display

Ludwig Museum, Cologne

way? I suppose, if the show is intended to be a historical survey, then the lesser artists do prove that the organisers have done their research. But I'm not convinced that Heinrich Ehmsen and Walter Jacob, among others, contribute much. Otherwise, the exhibition is well-paced, elegantly and sparsely hung, with the graphic work (including prints, publications and posters) backing up the paintings.

It is also themed, divided into different subjects such as "Hell and Paradise, Man and the Metropolis". This is more of a distraction than a help. Curators should not be encouraged to force an argument on to art. Paintings are much more than examples to illustrate a theory. What is useful, however, is the audio-visual room.

Snatches of music by composers as various as Berg, Bartók, Reger, Webern and Hindemith echo through the show. A sophisticated four- or five-screen slide show projects images of, for example, Kirchner's friends and atelier, interspersed with archive film snippets. Photographs are matched to paintings as their source. A marching soldier is intercut with pictures by Dix. Altogether, this audio-visual interlude provides a compact introduction to the show, encouraging a more convincing "reading" of the exhibition than the rather tenuous theming. Highly recommended.

German Expressionism: Art and Society, Palazzo Grassi, San Samuele 3231, Venice, to 11 Jan, open daily 10am-7pm

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Tickets £5. Booking: 0171-960 4242

Why you'd choose to be a woman – 100 good reasons

Debbie Barham is full of reasons to be cheerful about being female. Incidentally, the men's magazine 'GQ' celebrated its 100th issue this month by listing '100 Reasons Why It's Great To Be a Bloke'. Sad reading by comparison.

- 1: You can wear women's underwear without being arrested.
- 2: You can be sexually aroused in public without being arrested.
- 3: You can understand the mechanism of a bra strap.
- 4: You can be moody and anti-social on a regular monthly basis, without having to provide any rational explanation.
- 5: You can cry during *Sleepless in Seattle* and not have to blame it on hay fever and/or cat allergy.
- 6: You can correctly estimate the dimensions of the male genitalia.
- 7: You can become number one British women's tennis player simply by hitting a tennis ball once – without it being out.
- 8: You can detect, by scent, when underwear needs changing.
- 9: You can be not interested in footy without being thought homosexual.
- 10: You can use public toilets at the same time as other members of the same sex without being thought homosexual.
- 11: You can fake orgasm convincingly.
- 12: You can observe a Bar-B-Q without urges to intervene.
- 13: You can remain silent whilst in a car with a woman driver.
- 14: You can blame being overlooked for promotion on "bloody male chauvinists" and the "Old Boy Network".
- 15: You can take full advantage of British Telecom's "Friends And Family" discount.
- 16: You can occupy a bathroom for over 15 minutes without the aid of pornographic literature.
- 17: You can make sexist remarks about the opposite sex without calling it "post-modern irony".
- 18: You stand a better chance of selection as a New Labour MP.
- 19: You can rely on not being chatted up by Paula Yates ...
- 20: ... or by Michael Barrymore.
- 21: You can appreciate why scarlet crotchless leather panties are not, in fact, practical work-wear for the female executive.
- 22: You can watch canine castration on *Vets in Practice* without wincing.
- 23: You can go into the lingerie department of Debenhams without the air of a fugitive.
- 24: You will never have to master the art of tying a bow tie.
- 25: You can dislike Pamela Anderson and like Clare Short.
- 26: When you reach the age of 60, your breasts can double as handy fly-swatters.
- 27: You can avoid carrying heavy items of furniture when moving house.
- 28: You understand what a two way dry-weave topsheet is necessary for.
- 29: You can happily spend an entire afternoon in The Body Shop.
- 30: Two words – colour co-ordination.
- 31: You can wear a ponytail and not look like a total prat.
- 32: You can see that you have got cellulite. It's obvious. Look.
- 33: After passing wind in public, you will not be compelled to utter the phrase "oi oi, better out than in".
- 34: You can communicate with women by telephone.
- 35: You can use pregnancy as an excuse for weight gain.
- 36: You can use "47 per cent of women are a size 16 or over – it's a fact" as an excuse for weight gain.
- 37: You can use "hormones" as an excuse for weight gain.
- 38: You can use "refusal to be influenced by anorexic models in *Vogue*" as an excuse for weight gain.
- 39: You don't have to worry about being "a nine-stone weakling".
- 40: You can a) purchase tampons, b) read a map and c) eat quiche.
- 41: The words "falling sperm count" do not send shivers down your back.
- 42: You can urinate without leaving a small reservoir on the bathroom floor.
- 43: You can read the instruction



If a bad hair day is as bad as it gets, spare a thought for all those baldies

Photograph: Benetux Press/TCL

ture on a woman. As is red hair. Sometimes.

80: You can pack sensibly for holidays.

81: You will never wear jeans exposing your buttock cleavage, unless they happen to be fleetingly fashionable.

82: You can admit to being wrong about something ...

83: ... Even something as important as the Offside Rule.

84: Your status in society will never be dependent on how high you can piss.

85: You will never believe that a doner kebab is the ideal epicurean accompaniment for 15 pints of Special Brew.

86: Wearing a wig can be a fashion statement, not just a last resort.

87: Violent men are thuggish. Violent women are "feisty".

88: Men sweat. Women "glow".

89: If you claim to admire the Spice Girls because of their politics, some people will actually believe you.

90: You know the meaning of words like "exfoliation" ...

91: ... And "integrity".

92: You will never feel your masculinity threatened by large root vegetables, pepper pots or postcards featuring Nelson's Column.

93: You can appreciate that a woman who's just spent 50 per cent of her salary in Whistles can still have "nothing to wear tonight".

94: You can recall anniversaries other than Stoke City's first FA Cup win.

95: Your voice will never mutate overnight from Aled Jones into Barry White.

96: You can justifiably pass out during childbirth.

97: Your ability to concentrate is not inversely proportional to the bust size of adjacent females.

98: You have, statistically, more chance of finding a partner through newspaper contact ads.

99: You don't have to take mags like *GQ* seriously.

100: And finally – you just CAN, OK? Because you CAN. And if men don't understand that, then tough titty.

leaflet BEFORE assembling flatpacked furniture or operating electrical appliances.

44: You can carry a handbag.

45: You can find Jo Brand funny.

46: You will never be required to make an amusing Best Man speech at a wedding.

47: You don't have to worry that you might not be the real parent of your children.

48: You can expose your legs in hot weather and not look silly.

49: You can book a "massage" without embarrassment.

50: You can borrow your partner's clothes and not look perverted.

51: You can ask a complete

stranger for directions.

52: You can run "like a girl".

53: You never need be wary of scoutmasters with a glint in their eye.

54: You are less likely to give your private parts a pet name.

55: You can appreciate why double E-cup bosoms might sometimes be a disadvantage.

56: Women won't keep on buying your horrible ties and Old Spice for Christmas.

57: You can't bear to own a car stereo that doesn't have quite so many knobs as your next door neighbour's.

58: You can drink spritzers in pubs.

59: During sex, you are unlikely to worry about climaxing too quickly.

60: You realise that "ready in five minutes" actually means three-and-a-half hours.

61: You can resist the compulsion to scratch your privates in public and photocopy your arse at Christmas parties.

62: You can keep you legs together when sitting opposite other people on public transport.

63: Your partner will be PLEASED if you come home with lipstick on your face.

64: You can look at page three of the *Sun* without remarking loudly on the fact that you're really only reading the political story on page TWO.

65: When you reach your sexual peak, you're old enough to appreciate it.

66: You will never invite acquaintances to "smell my finger".

67: You can watch a woman peeling a banana without making lewd comments.

68: You can watch a woman removing an umbrella cover without making lewd comments.

69: You can watch a woman unwrapping a Cadbury's Flake without making lewd comments.

70: You can understand the grave severity of having a "bad hair day".

71: You can put a duvet cover on a duvet without asphyxiating yourself.

72: You can obtain nutritional sustenance without the aid of a microwave, a tin opener, or the telephone number of your local branch of Pizza Hut.

73: You can confess to having been dumped.

74: You can own a Renault Clio.

75: People will not automatically expect you to know how to play the guitar.

76: You can leave the plumbing to the plumber.

77: You are born with an instinctive knowledge of how many calories there are in any given foodstuff.

78: You can change a nappy in less than an hour.

79: Breasts are an attractive fea-

REVELATIONS

I was once told I looked like Rudyard Kipling. Now it's personal

The Time: 1996
The Place: South East London
The Man: David Haig, actor (Inspector Grim in *The Thin Blue Line*, Harold Nicolson in *Portrait of a Marriage*, *Art* at Wyndhams)

Ten years ago another actor told me that I was a doppelganger for Rudyard Kipling. It was the standard actor's motive for anything – OK, I'll play that one. A couple of years after I won an Olivier award for *Our Country's Good* in 1988, I asked for a play to be written about Kipling. Nobody wanted to

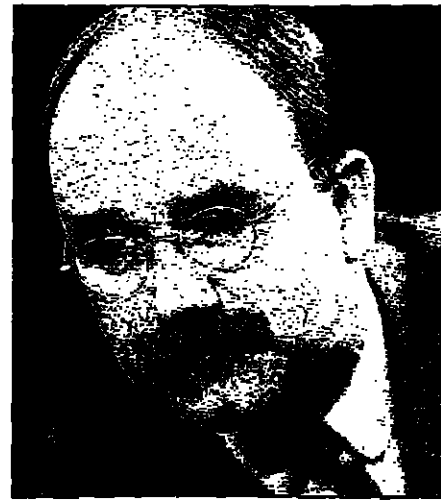
know. It's only in the last four or five years that there has been a resurgence of interest – perhaps we are distanced enough from the Empire to be able to treat his complexities and writing in an objective manner.

So three years ago I decided to write a play about Kipling myself. I was determined to do something in which I could have a more complete intellectual involvement. The more I investigated Kipling and his family – the more I realised how much it tied in to my own experience. The death of Kipling's son, Jack, had a profound effect on him and the death of my sister had a similar impact on my family. Kipling's patriotic writing was part of the mood which made his only son join up to fight in the First World War. With short eyesight, Jack should never have gone into battle, but Kipling encouraged him and he was promptly killed in action.

About 15 years ago, my sister, who was only 22, had a brain haemorrhage. She was very much the third child and had enormous warmth and energy but it crashed around in every direction. After being nervous and tense through her teens, she found peace with a boyfriend and moved to a cottage in Scotland.



Kipling and his doppelganger David Haig



Photographs: Camera Press & Geraint Lewis

But then from nowhere came a headache, double vision, she lay down and was unconscious – dead. I remember so clearly the last time I saw her before she died. The red brown leather jacket she was wearing was as vivacious as ever. I was just 26 and it was a great shock. I was overwhelmed by a hundred different feelings among which was enormous guilt that I hadn't supported her enough and that I was lucky to be alive.

In the same way that my sister found happiness before her death, there is lots of evidence that Jack Kipling, in the brief time he was an officer, achieved an identity of his own.

My play is all about how a family reacts to the death of a child, how they cope with the layers of shock and what follows. What do you repress and what do you allow yourself to feel?

The Kipling I was reading about tied in with my perception of my father and myself. My father has always had a seminal influence on me. I wasn't writing about a distant figure, it was a hybrid of Kipling, my father and myself. It was very exciting. We can all be dogmatic but we also have

She had to go through a natural birth because it's healthier physically and psychologically. Through paper thin walls we could hear mothers celebrating the birth of live children. It's a crippling experience – particularly for the mother. It is so barren and arid. The reverse of everything that is natural. To give birth to death is really perverse.

When the baby was born, we had this perfect human being of tiny dimensions. We stayed with her for about three hours which was a bizarre reminder of that time with a live baby. Parents never recover from something like that, as Kipling's wife says in the play: "They stitch up the wound and go on."

We called our daughter Grace. We are trying to build her a Japanese-style garden at home. You can't imagine two less Buddhist human beings than my partner and I – but we're drawn to creating a place where we can not only think about her loss but also contemplate what life is all about. We'll put in a couple of simple rocks, maybe engraved with words that mean something to both of us.

So this play has extraordinary resonances from the point 10 years ago when I was told that I looked like Kipling. Orig-

inally it had the most base motives, a greedy actor who wanted to play a part. Now it's become something really very deep and personal. There's even a scene between Rudyard and his wife that I have written as a direct result of a conversation I had with my wife shortly after the death of Grace.

The people who survive these deaths, parents, brothers and sisters, carry on – but it can either destroy or mature them. Hopefully in real life and in the play, at least on a spiritual level, we have been strengthened. Kipling is not such a ranter, and hopefully I'm less dogmatic than I was before these experiences. The balance between my tough and soft sides has changed; hopefully the writing reflects that. I thought I was creating something that was cool but everybody tells me it is a gut-felt emotional play. Writing can be therapeutic but only if you stay honest and don't sentimentalise or hide the complexity of your feelings.

Interview by Andrew G Marshall

David Haig has written and stars in *My Boy Jack* which runs until 22nd November at the Hampstead Theatre in London. Box office: 0171-722 9301

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The English can teach a lesson to the great football nations



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"Unfortunately the past reputation of England fans has gone before them," a Football Association official said yesterday, stating the conventional wisdom about what happened in the stands at the Stadio Olimpico on Saturday. It is a piece of wisdom, however, that needs to be challenged if those scenes are not to be repeated in France at the World Cup next year. For the fact is the domestic reputation of English football fans is excellent and has been pretty good now for a number of years. Saturday afternoons and weekday evenings, especially in the Premiership, are not quite oases of social peace, but trouble in last weekend's terms just does not happen. Understanding why that should be so is a key to ensuring a better outcome when England visits abroad in future.

We have had the bragadocio, notably from David Mellor - his panting enthusiasm to drop an immediate and half-informed view, preferably anywhere near an open microphone is a bad augury for his

conduct of the official review of footballing policy. We have had the half-baked nationalism which prefers stereotypes to real-life diversity - not all Italian policemen are wonderful, but neither are all of them practising for a role in the Taviani Brothers' forthcoming epic of *Il Duce* and his *Blackshirts*. We have also had the - sometimes harrowing - tales of returning fans caught up in a bewildering situation not of their making, in which poor stewardship and bad organisation bear much of the responsibility. We also have the verdict of Italian courts on "fans" whose sporting instinct is provocation and putting the boot in. Our Rome correspondents' reports of the behaviour of these ambassadors of modern England make for dismaying reading: we look forward to the next Demos report on what to do about the brand image these louts project.

Except it is something they can only get away with abroad. Football in England - Scotland reorganised the game before and

Wales has never had similar problems, at least on any scale - has been cleansed. It took the Heysel and Hillsborough disasters to provoke action. On the latter there are questions of cause and effect outstanding, which Lord Justice Stuart-Smith's inquiry may finally answer; but Lord Taylor's report led to dramatic changes in both the safety and comfort in which most fans watch football. In recent years football has been modernised. Capacity has been cut, terracing bulldozed and replaced by seats. Clubs have turned themselves into commercial operations and some of them even treat their paying customers with a modicum of respect.

In parallel, probably without sufficient credit, the police have got their act together. They have been helped by the virtual disappearance of casual travelling - nowadays there are simply too few opportunities for irregular supporters to find their way in. Tony Banks yesterday identified travel control - or rather its lack - as one reason

for Saturday's mayhem. The courts have powers to block the movement of known troublemakers. And known they are, for the police, and the football authorities, have professionalised their intelligence gathering. One of the better consequences of the establishment of the National Reporting Centre and the other measures of centralisation that accompanied the miners' strike in the mid-Eighties was an end to petty regional rivalries among police forces, especially between provincials and the Met. Now that football clubs know who their supporters are - the lucky ones who qualify for season tickets - the task of identifying the trouble-makers has become easier. One very good reason why what happened at the weekend should not influence football's international authorities in their decision about whether to locate the 2006 World Cup in England is that it said nothing about English football conditions.

Indeed what it said was that other countries, including Italy, may have something

to learn from English techniques and experience, especially in terms of ticket management and big event stewardship. The relevant comparison is Euro '96: England's track record is outstanding. The English example says that "policing" is not just a matter of boys in blue, shields and batons: it is a question of cooperation from the very earliest stages of police forces, football authorities, transport undertakers, publicans and so on. Methods of ticket allocation are as much part of the package as body searches - necessary, surely, only where intelligence indicates individuals or groups likely to throw objects - at the ground. Every footballing country in Europe has its problem "fans" - including the otherwise pacific Dutch. Can the German and the Italian and the French authorities identify them as readily as the English? That is a question which the French state should be asking with real urgency and demanding answers - not just from those countries which qualify.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Minister and shares

Sir: Margaret Beckett in her letter to you (13 October) still refuses to clarify which shares Nigel Griffiths owns. She has received several letters from me as she declines to tell us if Mr Griffiths, or his wife, own shares in P&O and in ICI. Why will she not tell us? Her letter leaves open whether some shares have passed to them rather than his sister. I have always made it clear that if the shares were owned by Mr Griffiths' sister I could see no problem with him continuing on the inquiry.

Why will Mrs Beckett not publish a list of all the shares owned by ministers in her department, whether they are now transferred to a blind trust or not and on what date they were transferred?

I see Nigel Griffiths has been involved with "over 100 competition decisions and issues". Would Mrs Beckett name them, at the same time as publishing a definitive list of the issues and companies which Mr Griffiths cannot handle? Mrs Beckett has not clarified which papers Nigel Griffiths saw prior to announcing an interest on 8 May and what decision he took on P&O/Stena before he withdrew from the case.

JOHN REDWOOD
Shadow President of the Board of Trade
House of Commons

Into battle over EMU

Sir: So, with a combination of nudges, winks and denials, plus encouraging "come on in, the water's lovely" noises from across the Channel, the process of creating an atmosphere in which British participation in European monetary union (EMU) becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy has started.

Given the Government's pro-European, collectivist instincts, and the views of some big business, it is no surprise that an attempt is being made to bounce us into EMU. Everything possible should be done, however, to ensure that one of the most important decisions ever to face this country is not taken without the proper debate which has been lacking so far, and which proponents of EMU will try to avoid.

Whilst the euro should lead to very large savings in costs and a general simplification of business transactions, and I have no objections to it in principle if it can work, nobody has managed to persuade me that a common currency can work in an area with such large disparities of income between member states, where member states are at different points in the business cycle and therefore require different interest rates, where labour is not mobile, and where there is no arrangement for redistributing wealth from the more to the less prosperous areas through a federal tax and benefit system, as in the US, from where warnings about the problems of EMU have recently begun to emanate.

If these questions cannot be answered satisfactorily, the assumption must be that EMU is likely to cause enormous social, economic and possibly political dislocation, the effects of which we could not avoid even if we do not join.

PETER JOHNSON
East Preston, West Sussex

Sir: Judging from what was said at Blackpool last week, it seems evident that the division between the pro- and anti-EMU viewpoints will now lie between the Labour government and Tory opposition. The Eurosceptics will, no doubt, feel encouraged by this to return to the type of nationalist propaganda which this country had to suffer prior to 1 May. The remark by a young Tory at Blackpool is a fair sample of what we can expect: "Europeans are different - they eat horses."

I hope that the Government will not delay any longer in informing the electorate of the issues surrounding EMU and follow this up with a clear statement of their intention to join, if not in the first wave then as soon as possible thereafter.

Whom should we believe on the single currency? The anti-European MPs and economists or the job and wealth creators, comprising thousands of in-

dustries and represented by the Confederation of British Industry and others who, in principle, support EMU. Sir HAROLD ATCHERLEY, *Chairman, European Movement, Suffolk and North Essex Branch, Long Melford, Suffolk*

Sir: Last month, at the newsgroup in Gozzano, Italy where I buy my *Independent*, I was handed a free floppy disk which, in graphic style sets out the case for Italy to join European monetary union. The disk, which also gives a fascinating statistical breakdown on all other EU countries, was sponsored by Italy's treasury ministry.

The lira is not one of Europe's most stable currencies. But Italy, with all its many fiscal faults, has a real commitment to make Europe work. Yes, there is resistance to EMU membership, but it is largely

about the terms and constraints. There is little lack of will to consummate the EU marriage by this final act such as you find in over-cautious, xenophobic Britain. DAVID ROWLANDS, *Basingstoke, Hampshire*

Green buildings

Sir: Whilst I subscribe to the diagnosis of our environmental problems outlined by Charles Secret (letter, 11 October) I feel he is being hard on a government which has hardly had a chance to penetrate the inner workings of the mind of "Sir Humphrey." We should not underestimate the scale of the commitment by Tony Blair to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by 20 per cent against 1990 levels by 2010.

The built environment imposes by far the greatest demand on fossil-based energy. This is the sector which could

deliver the carbon-dioxide reductions within the timescale and without political risk.

We have some of the worst housing in Europe, and there needs to be a national strategy to bring the whole housing stock to a standard of thermal efficiency near to the current regulations for new buildings. The most urgent requirement is for a review of the thermal section (Part L) of the Building Regulations. This needs to be substantially tightened, so that in the domestic sector we are at least in line with comparable north European countries.

In commercial and institutional buildings, we need to tackle head-on the market resistance to naturally lit and ventilated offices. There is now conclusive evidence that green buildings offer a commercial advantage over their scaled, air-conditioned counterparts, not least in the health of the occu-

pants. Where there have been corporate moves from an air conditioned office to green accommodation there has been around a 15 per cent reduction in absenteeism.

Earlier draft buildings regulations made it necessary to justify the inclusion of air conditioning. This was omitted due to pressure from the offices lobby. It should be reinstated, especially since the Government has demonstrated in an innovative building that it is possible in areas of high pollution to have a sealed building which is nevertheless naturally ventilated. The New Parliamentary Building in Whitehall will set new standards for the offices sector.

Professor PETER F SMITH, *Chairman, Environment and Planning Committee, Royal Institute of British Architects, London W1*

M15 opens the files

Sir: I am grateful to Anne Crawford of the Public Record Office for confirming that some of M15's historical files will begin to appear in the PRO next month (letter, 10 October).

After five years of rumours and unattributable hints from the spooks we have at last been favoured with a formal announcement just weeks before the files are to be opened. And this was only forthcoming because I provocatively quoted off-the-record comments by a PRO official. It's an incongruous way to launch a new era of openness.

This transfer of records, we are told, is "in line with the process routinely followed by other government departments", but it's no ordinary department that gets away with not depositing so much as a paper clip in the PRO for 88 years.

Ms Crawford assures us that this exercise is not a "sop", but it's hard not to see it as another episode in M15's "charm offensive", as it tries to justify its existence after the Cold War. I intend to be first in the queue next month to see how much *glasnost* we're being allowed.

DAVID TURNER
Borden, Kent

What killed Dylan

Sir: About that Nashold/Tremlett book, which "reveals" that Dylan Thomas didn't die of drink (report, 13 October). This was discovered twenty years ago; by me. Half a grain of morphine unwisely prescribed in New York did for him. The "acute alcohol poisoning" story hasn't been taken seriously for years.

Nashold and Tremlett produce evidence that he was a diabetic. Maybe he was. Constantine FitzGibbon's biography speculated about it in 1965. What matters is the despair Thomas came to feel about his poetry and his marriage, so that in the end he put himself in the way of dying, one way or another.

PAUL FERRIS
Boughrood, Pwys

Late converts

Sir: Deathbed conversions are commendable. Post-mortem ones, such as that of the Tory party, strain credulity. ANTHONY WRIGHT, *London, NW2*

Notes towards the definition of a third-rate power



MILES KINGTON

The Queen's visit to India might have gone totally unreported here if there had not been a diplomatic incident to liven it up.

What do we mean by a diplomatic incident?

We mean quite the opposite. We mean an incident in which someone has been undiplomatic.

In this case, the President of India allegedly said, while on a previous visit to Cairo, that he didn't want a third-rate power like Britain intervening between India and Pakistan in the Kashmir dispute.

This would seem a fair enough comment to most of us. After all, the last time that Britain intervened between India and Pakistan, in a little

episode called Partition, we managed to create the conditions for the deaths of millions of people. Lord Mountbatten, our self-inflated representative out there, was always rather adept at sinking his own ships, but he had never arranged a head-on collision between two countries before. Even by his standards it was a triumphant disaster.

A reader writes: Dear Mr Kington, I don't think it was the turning down of our offer to mediate that annoyed everyone. It was when the President of India described us as a third-rate nation.

Allegedly?

A reader writes: Yes, sorry. Allegedly described us as a third-rate nation.

Oh, I see. Is that supposed to be an insult?

Yes.

Why?

Well, when you call someone third-rate, that implies that they are... well, third-rate.

I see. Is that bad?

Oh, yes. It tends to suggest that you think that they are not first-rate.

Yes, but hold on. We all know there aren't many first-rate nations. Hardly any. In fact, there may not be any. There are some second-rate nations. There are also third, fourth and fifth-rate nations. You can't have one rate without having the other rates.

We can't all be first and second-rate.

You're on tricky ground

here, but go on.

In the same way, you can't make football teams all top division. You can cheat a bit by renaming the First Division the Premier Division, and then moving the rest up so that the old Second Division becomes the new First Division and so on, but there are still going to be some third division teams. Indeed, there are some teams below that. There are all the Vauxhall Conference teams. A Vauxhall Conference team is below the Third Division, and yet it is never used as an insult. I mean, if the President of India had turned round and said...

Allegedly said...

...if the President of India

had turned round and allegedly said that Britain was a Vauxhall Conference nation, what do you think the reaction would have been?

I think the Vauxhall car people might have been a bit upset.

Or pleased. They might have taken it as a good bit of free publicity.

Ye-e-s... What is a Vauxhall Conference, anyway?

I don't know. I have always visualised it as a large five-door conference centre on wheels, with small walnut desks and every passenger connected by screens, so that silvery-haired executives called Ted and Harry can get together and drive up and down the M1 and thrash out

their marketing policy for the exciting new lemon-flavoured brand of cider they have dreamt up, and have it all decided in the Vauxhall Conference instead of actually going to a country hotel and wasting a lot of money on a conference suite with audiovisual aids that break down.

And each passenger gets a small chintzy lamp, like the ones you see in motorway coaches which go past you at 90mph?

No. That's for tourists. I fancy that each passenger gets a small mini-bar and a leather folder. And a lapel badge with his name and rank on?

Why do you need that?

It will be very helpful if the car crashes at speed, because

all the bodies can be instantly identified as they are pulled from the wreckage.

Ouch. That's a bit of a third-class joke, isn't it?

Are you calling my jokes third-class?

Allegedly. Anyway, it's no worse than calling Britain a third-rate nation, surely?

Yes, but what IS a third-rate nation? Is it possible to be third-rate without having Little Chefs and Happy Eaters? Does having the best football hooligans in the world make you first-rate? If the British were really passionate about culture, wouldn't there be hand-to-hand fighting at the Booker Prize ceremony? Tomorrow, the debate continues.

The best of neighbours in Downing Street



**DONALD
MACINTYRE**
ON THE KEY
RELATIONSHIP

It remains the most important friendship in British politics. In and out of each other's offices every day since the middle of the 1980s, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have an ideological outlook and mutual understanding so deep that it's sometimes difficult to decide which of them thought of which idea first.

The relationship between Prime Minister and Chancellor, First and Second Lords of the Treasury, is always a complicated one. Some of those around Ken Clarke, for example, left office with the clear view that tensions between the Chancellor and the Prime Minister are built into the system: their relationship was better before, and has been better since, they lived next door to each other in Downing Street. But the intimacy and frequency of the contacts between Brown and Blair works in a way intended to get around that problem; Whitehall officials have been struck, and a little alarmed, at how often the pair meet without civil servants. The result is something that is less an institutional relationship between Numbers Ten and Eleven Downing Street, and more that of old friends – albeit for a brief but momentous period – who know each other extremely well and who can and do endlessly discuss in complete privacy the great issues of government and how to tackle them.

Nevertheless the Clarke-Major relationship, and before it that of Lawson and Thatcher, showed what an independent power base within the Cabinet a strong modern Chancellor can have. The one real scoop in the recent Channel Four documentary *Bye Bye Blues* was an interview with the former Tory chairman Jeremy Hanley who described how, not once but twice, Clarke commanded a majority of the Cabinet against a minority which included the Prime Minister. On the first occasion Clarke forced through a decision in favour of his increasing VAT of fuel, only to be subsequently defeated in the Commons. On the second, Clarke successfully resisted the funding increase sought by the then Education Secretary Gillian Shephard. When the issue was forced to a vote, the majority went with Ken Clarke, even though John Major backed Mrs Shephard.

So it would not be surprising if, on those occasions when Blair and Brown do have differences, Brown sometimes got his own way. (A recent, if entirely internal Labour Party, example is the case of the selection of the candidate to fight the Paisley by-election. Gordon Brown conducted a formidable lobbying operation on behalf of Douglas Alexander, who is now the candidate. He will almost certainly be a first class MP. But another able candidate, Pat Macfadden, who works in the Prime Minister's policy unit dropped out after at least one meeting be-

tween Brown and Blair.) Still, on most of the big issues, the Prime Minister has chosen his ground carefully, and has eventually got his way. There are two important examples from before the election: Brown didn't get his new top tax rate of 50 per cent; and Blair insisted on matching the Tories' pledge to have an EMU referendum – even though Brown had at one period proposed making the manifesto commitment of support for the single currency sufficiently strong that the election itself would have provided a mandate to take Britain in.

Which helps to put the hot issue of the day in perspective. A spate of newspaper stories – the latest of which appeared yesterday in the *Daily Mail* and *Glasgow Herald* – have predicted EMU entry in this Parliament. This has looked awfully like Brown's allies seeking to force the pace on the timing of British entry (though it could also be an attempt to talk down the job-threatening level of the pound). But whether or not Brown wants to go faster than Blair, all the signs are that the Prime Minister is still extremely wary about the timing of a referendum.

You can talk to ministers who will say that the momentousness of the risk is overestimated, and even that the Government could come back from a defeat in an EMU referendum. That isn't, I suspect, quite how the Prime Minister sees it. Before he and Robin Cook announce plans for the British EU presidency at the beginning of December, he and Brown will surely have agreed a statement confirming that the UK will not enter EMU on January 1, 1999, but that it intends to do so when the conditions – including the Europe-wide prospects on jobs – are right for British entry. For Britain to retain influence in the EU, while being outside EMU, that will have to be pretty convincing to Britain's partners. But the timing is another matter.

Of course a referendum before the next general election is possible. So is putting an EMU pledge in the next general election manifesto. But a referendum after the next general election is likelier still. There are ministers who say the Prime Minister would not want a referendum this side of an election unless he could persuade Rupert Murdoch's newspapers to drop their still virulently opposition to EMU. Whether or not that's true, public opinion will take time to turn round (not to mention a few prominent Cabinet sceptics like Jack Straw). The Conservative Party – admittedly without Clarke and Heseltine but with Michael Rooker and Margaret Thatcher – would be galvanised, spilling for the fight. Television would have to give equal time to both sides. Defeat might be highly unlikely, but it would be catastrophic.

For whatever siren voices say to the contrary, the Prime Minister would indeed be betting the ranch; it's hard to see how a government could come back from a referendum defeat on something so fundamental and win the second term Blair so badly wants – never mind the impact on Britain's future in the EU: forget about EMU membership for a generation.

The Brown-Blair relationship is at the heart of the Government's success. No-one knows better than Blair how indispensable a motor of modernisation Brown is. Probably these issues will all be settled in the ebb and flow of constant and comradely discussion between the two of them, well away from the spin doctors. But while Brown may be as strong as Clarke, Blair is not John Major. If it comes to it, Blair will not be for bouncing.

Nothing to rebel against – pity the poor conformists without a cause



**GLEND
COOPER**
YOUTHFUL
DILEMMA

"Human beings make war and hate one another. They do not understand their young, they reject their ideals, they make them come home early from the disco. They are doomed." (From *The Concerned Adolescent* by Wendy Cope)

It's hell being young. No – really it is. No one understands you see. And no one cares about how dreadfully difficult it is to find something to rebel against these days.

Youth, as Bernard Shaw pointed out, is there to shock the old and keep them up to date. Well maybe in the past. But think about being an 18-year-old in 1997. You were born a Thatcher's child and you now have to adapt to a new caring, giving Blairite society. Your older siblings knew what they were against – the Tories – even if they weren't quite sure what they were in favour of. What can you do to show you're different?

Youth icons of today offer scant support for rebellion – do you choose the Spice Girls (in essence siding with Pepsi-Cola rather than Coca-Cola?), Chris Evans or Zoe Ball (Virgin vs Radio 1), or Oasis (hanging round Downing Street and sucking up to Tony Blair).

The music industry has been particularly bad in letting poor adolescents down. Where is today's Eton Rifles (The Jam) or UB40 singing "I am a One in Ten", or even Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" – the anthem of the International Trade Union Movement.

Instead on Sunday the Spice Girls played their first live concert – not a bad achievement for a band who have already had three chart-topping singles. "If you really wanna know, yes they can sing," said the *Daily Mail* yesterday. But what you should really wanna know about is the marketing.

While in the past bands may have worried more about social injustice, the Spices obviously have their heads screwed on the right way by allying themselves with a soft drink brand. All 8,000 or so people attending the concert had done so as competition winners for Pepsi-Cola. Pepsi has

received 12,000 applications a day for a Spice Girls single that can only be heard by buying a can of the soft drink.

The proponents of Girl Power did remember to spout a bit of their philosophy. "We are five individuals who do not have to be the same," said Mel B (Scary). "You can start your own business and believe in yourself. But you must help your sisters," said Geri Spice.

But perhaps Posh Spice summed up their thoughts best. Asked if she would marry the England footballer David Beckham she replied "That's none of your business... But he drinks Pepsi too," she parroted. Product placement like no other.

Marketing Week warned last week that the Spices were in danger of overkill – besides the Pepsi deal there is a link-up with Walkers crisps, an Impulse Spice range of scents, a tie-up with Chupa Chups lollipops, a Polaroid SpiceCam and a BT advertising campaign planned before Christmas.

How can an adolescent take such a marketed concept seriously? But then the Spices aren't alone in disappointing to-

day's youth. Even Guthrie himself who inspired Pete Seeger in the Forties, Bob Dylan in the Sixties, Bruce Springsteen in the Seventies, now finds himself part of the establishment as one of the singers he influenced – Billy Bragg in the Eighties – has been chosen to be in charge of his archive material. Archive material!

What's the point of watching a real rock'n'roll band start their tour in Chicago when your dad next to you knows the words better than you do. And don't mention Bob Dylan. The man has yet another album out this month and he played for the Pope last month. Bob Dylan? Playing for the Pope?

And where's the excitement in telling your round-eyed parents that Noel Gallagher has compared drug taking to having a cup of tea when you open the papers the next day to find him smuggling up to the prime minister in Downing Street. You have to do a lot of spitting and swearing before you can regain your street cred after that.

Last week as well, former rock star Bill Drummond of the K Foundation warned rock

stars against coying up to the new establishment. In particular, he attacked Alan McGee, head of Oasis's record company, Creation, for joining the Government's task force on the arts.

"I'm getting very frightened," said Drummond. "It seems that the establishment has pulled the arts to its bosom, but it is the job of the arts to stand outside the establishment. As soon as you start becoming part of the PR of a government you are getting into a dangerous area."

Mr McGee justified his decision by saying that he was not a rebel. So that's alright then.

Still there's always the ginger whinger, the DJ Chris Evans, to be the rebel you know and love. No stunt's too

mad for Evans, no one's too important for him to slag off. But then even he as anti-hero hasn't got that much going. Why had he gone back to breakfast show radio (the commercial kind, mind you), he was asked. Maybe to cock a snook at the authoritarian BBC? For the kids? No. "The reason we came back to the radio is because we stopped getting things for free. We didn't realise how much we got for free since we came off and have had to pay for everything." He and his team had had free car loans and scooters in their time at Radio 1 and he had a Bentley at the weekend, he added. Bet that goes down well with the eco-warriors.

Ah yes the eco-warriors, the rebels with a cause in our time. Now there's something to rebel about. Honiton, Newbury and Lancaster. Manchester Airport. Swampy. What a time that was. But now there have been cut-backs in new motorways and bypasses, cycle lanes and paths are on the increase and John Prescott announced last month that he wants us out of our cars.

It's a bit difficult to lecture your parents on air pollution if the Deputy Prime Minister is saying it first and has a report by the Royal Commission on Environmental Protection behind him. It kind of takes the fun out of it as well.

There's not even much fun in being a student anymore by the time you've finished sorting out your loans and your £1,000 tuition fees, your first job and your overdraft. And then there isn't much time any more to sit around, get stoned and think about the meaning of life. If you can get to be leader of the Tory party by the age of 36 (William Hague), editor of a national newspaper by the age of 28 (Piers Morgan, who edited the *News Of The World* and now the *Mirror*) or have a novel published by the age of 18 (Bidisha), you obviously can't waste three years of university sitting around.

The point is today's would-be rebels need to sit tight. These things go in cycles. Some of us lived through the era of the New Romantics (radical to wear long frilly shirts) or even those highly political animals themselves, the Bay City Rollers. For every punk or flower power era there is a time when Celine Dion just has to top the charts. Grin and bear it.



The times they are a-changing: Bob Dylan sings for the Pope

Photograph: AP

Social change is best done in small, reversible steps



**ANDREAS
WHITTAM
SMITH**
LEGALISATION
OF MARIJUANA

A satisfactory inquiry into cannabis, its uses and abuses, and the role of the law, could be rapidly completed. There is no need for the cumbersome machinery of a Royal Commission to re-do the extensive research which has already been carried out into all drugs and their varying effects upon health, behaviour and crime. The latest issue of the American magazine, *Science*, for instance, contains a thorough analysis of the results of the Dutch experiment in liberalising the law on cannabis, both as

regards possession and dealing.

The many studies like this into every aspect of the subject could be collated and summarised without much difficulty and in double quick time. The Government should undertake this useful task of providing a briefing for the public; such a document would be a public service not a policy initiative.

The questions, at least, are clear. What are the effects of cannabis on the user? Does it lead to anti-social behaviour? Is it addictive? How does it compare to alcohol? Does it provide a gateway to the use of hard drugs? How much success has government policy had during the past fifteen years? What have been the costs of this policy? What can we learn from Spain and Italy, where decriminalisation has also taken place, and from the different policies adopted by US states, as well as from Holland? What are the medicinal uses of cannabis?

The answers will be found to lack precision. A Rochdale doctor told a recent conference of the British Medical Association that cannabis had unpleasant effects, such as distorting perception, reducing vigilance and causing apathy and indifference. But another

study declares that cannabis is a fairly mild hallucinogenic or euphoriant. Are the two saying the same thing and do they imply that cannabis is more dangerous than alcohol?

Some of this can be sorted out. But not all. Any inquiry would be left with a series of answers that fall into wide ranges of probability. Nonetheless, the findings, taken together, would support the case for decriminalisation. That is why I think that the best approach that the Government could take would be to try to make progress by tiny steps, starting immediately. The poll in the *Independent* on Sunday shows that public opinion would be in favour. If ever there was a problem demanding an application of British pragmatism, this is it. I define a "tiny" step as one which could be reversed without embarrassment.

The new drugs "czar", for instance, whose appointment is due to be announced by the Prime Minister tomorrow, will no doubt observe that police policy towards possession of cannabis varies across the country. In some places, people are arrested and charged, in other areas they are only warned. It would be useful to compare and contrast the effects of these

different approaches. Indeed for this reason it might even be advisable to maintain this diversity for some time. Then, having gained confidence from this experiment, as I assume it would, the government would be able to state that national policy would be for the police to issue warnings rather than charges except in flagrant cases. If such a policy appeared to work safely, having tried it out for, say, two years, then it would not be such a big step to decriminalise possession altogether – except of commercial amounts. At this stage, dealing would still be a criminal offence.

It is in this pragmatic spirit that the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, made a useful contribution to the debate last week. He said that he would look at the case for amending existing legislation so that cannabis could be prescribed by doctors for certain conditions, particularly for people with multiple sclerosis. California has already taken this step. The drug helps reduce tremors and spasms and it eases movement. Aids sufferers likewise claim that it improves their appetite.

If these various measures worked well, then the next move would be more of a leap

than a step. The Government might well pause before taking it. For it would involve removing the trade in cannabis from the streets, from pubs and clubs and from criminal gangs and giving licences for its distribution to approved outlets. I am not sure that the United Kingdom would want to follow the Dutch pattern of allowing some 1,500 "coffee houses" to deal in small quantities. It might be that high-street pharmacies would be more suitable, seeing that their staff already have the appropriate training.

But we would do well to insist that licensed distributors follow the five rules that Dutch coffee shop dealers have to observe. As with alcohol, no sales to minors. That is obvious enough. Likewise no public disturbances, something for which British public houses can also lose their licences. A further rule is – no advertising. This is extremely important. The evidence from the years following the ending of prohibition of alcohol in the United States in 1933 is that it was the gradual increase in advertising that lifted consumption rather than de-regulation itself. There was no steep jump when the law was relaxed.

The Dutch also prohibit

licensed dealers in cannabis from selling hard drugs. For the Dutch, this is a crucial issue. In the unregulated, criminal market, cannabis is generally sold alongside hard drugs. But applying a licensing system to cannabis actually breaks the link. The Dutch believe that separating the soft- and hard-drug markets reduces the so-called "gateway" effect. The final Dutch safeguard is to set limits on the amounts of cannabis that can be supplied in each transaction and the amount that can be held in stock. The thresholds are set at low levels.

What I am arguing is that legalising the supply and consumption of cannabis should not be seen as a big-bang decision. Rather than endlessly debating the grand issues and coming to no conclusion, it would be better to get going with limited initiatives, measure the results, be ready to turn back if the consequences are unfavourable; and, otherwise, keep pushing ahead. Perhaps it would take as long as five years to reach legalisation of possession and another five to bring in a licensing system for suppliers. No matter; it is the direction that counts rather than the speed.



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Denver: a hippie the whole family could enjoy

Photograph: GEMS / Redferns

John Denver

Henry John Deutschendorf Jr (John Denver), singer, guitarist, songwriter; born Roswell, New Mexico 31 December 1943; married first 1967 Ann Martell (one adopted son, one adopted daughter; marriage dissolved 1983), second Cassandra Delaney (one daughter); died Monterey Bay, California 12 October 1997.

It is surprising to discover that John Denver only had one UK Top 30 hit, "Annie's Song". Despite numerous tours and television appearances, the British public ignored all his other US No 1s - "Sunshine on My Shoulders", "Back Home Again", "Thank God I'm a Country Boy", "Calypto" and "I'm Sorry". In the same way that the British public never latched on to surf records, maybe his Johnny-One-Note theme of the Rocky Mountains was too alien to us. Most of us thank God we're city boys - and if we had all followed John Denver into the wilderness, there would have been no wilderness at all.

He was born Henry John Deutschendorf, the son of an air force pilot, in Roswell, New Mexico, on New Year's Eve 1943. His father's job meant that he had an unsettled childhood, although they did spend seven years in Tucson, Arizona. His constant companion was a guitar given to him by his grandmother and he paid tribute to her warmth in his concert favourite "Grandma's Feather Bed".

At first he thought of being

an architect, but he got drawn into the local folk scene in Los Angeles. Randy Sparks, of the New Christy Minstrels, suggested a change in name and "I chose Denver because my heart longed to live in the mountains". Denver nearly joined the Byrds but instead became part of the popular Chad Mitchell Trio, and in 1967, they recorded his composition, "Leavin' on a Jet Plane". Denver wrote it in Washington "not so much from feeling that way for someone, but from the longing of having someone to love". He soon did have someone to love, as he met Ann Martell and followed her on a skiing trip to Aspen. They were married later that year.

On the departure of Chad Mitchell, the Chad Mitchell Trio floundered and, through a series of misfortunes, Denver found himself with debts of \$40,000. This put a strain on the marriage, which he articulated in "Goodbye Again". Fortunately for him, Peter, Paul and Mary recorded "Leavin' on a Jet Plane" and the song became an international hit. His first solo album, *Rhymes and Reasons*, was released in 1969.

Even though he was unknown, John Denver was given a six-week television series on BBC2 in the early Seventies. The public warmed to his million-watt smile, his cowboy shirts, his granny glasses, his Dutch haircut, his valiant attempts at juggling and his catchphrase, "Far out". Sure he was a hippie, but he was one of the whole family could enjoy.

In 1971 Denver had just completed, or so he thought, his

album *Poems, Prayers and Promises*. He was giving a concert with Bill and Taffy Danoff, who played him a song they were writing, "Take Me Home, Country Roads". Denver finished it and asked RCA to add it to the album. The song reached No 2 in the United States, although it was a cover version by Olivia Newton-John, that made the Top 10 in Britain.

By then living in Aspen, he wrote the idyllic "Starwood in Aspen", "Aspenglow" and his anthem, "Rocky Mountain High". It was a joyous song about how he had been born again in the summer of his 27th year. Denver's melodic, light voice was well suited to his songs which reflected his love of the mountains and his love of his wife. It was a contrast to the cynicism of urban songwriters like Paul Simon, Bob Dylan and John Lennon. Denver's songs were seen as naive, which was partly true - even when he felt depressed, his feelings emerged in another positive song, "Sunshine on my Shoulders".

Although Denver's albums sold in the UK, his singles failed to have the same success as in the United States, but this changed in 1974, when he released "Annie's Song". It topped the UK charts and then became an instrumental success for the classical flautist James Galway.

The Rocky Mountain hype went into operation when Denver split with his wife in 1975. They patched up their marriage, but eventually divorced in 1983. An album and a single, both called *Seasons of the Heart*

(1982), captured the strain of the relationship. Denver then married Cassandra Delaney, who had sung backing vocals on his albums. Much to his surprise, as he considered himself sterile, they had a daughter, Jesse Belle.

Denver befriended the French underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, and in 1975 he wrote a modern sea shanty about Cousteau's boat, "Calypso". He also worked with Frank Sinatra on television and in concert, and Sinatra commented, "It reminds me of what happened to me. Once again America has picked out a hero."

The relationship with Sinatra encapsulates what went wrong with Denver's career. He wrote many standards, but time and again, his songs were covered by middle-of-the-road entertainers rather than rock artists, so he lost his credibility. In Willy Russell's play *One For The Road*, the main character throws his wife's record collection out of the window with the cry, "I hate John Goldilocks Denver".

Whether this would have amused John Denver is open to question. He took himself seriously and he was not amused when Monty Python recorded "Farewell to John Denver" in 1981, in which Eric Idle as Denver was strangled by a boa constrictor. The offending track had to be removed from the Python album. He did, however, show his own aptitude for comedy in the film *Oh God!* (1977), in which George Burns as God chooses the sunshine

boy to deliver his message to the world.

Denver formed his own record label, "Windsong". In 1976, but by then the magic was beginning to fade. A duet of "Perhaps Love" with Plácido Domingo made the UK Top 50 in 1981, while Denver and Emmylou Harris had an American success with "Wild Montana Skies" in 1983. He wrote his autobiography *Take Me Home* in 1994 and a two-CD set, *The Rocky Mountain Collection*, was issued in the UK last year.

Business economies being what they are, Denver switched to solo concerts without a group in recent years but he excelled with narrations like "The Ambulance Down In The Valley". Lacking a female singer to sing Olivia Newton-John's part in "Fly Away", he would ask the audience to join him. Playing at the Liverpool Empire in 1986, he spontaneously broke into a 15-minute medley of Beatles songs. "That wasn't very professional," he admitted, "but it sure was fun."

Denver founded an environmental group, Windstar, and visited Russia and China to discuss the preservation of the planet. He loved space exploration and applied, unsuccessfully, to be an astronaut. He sang about the 1986 space shuttle disaster in "Flying For Me".

John Denver will be remembered as a singer-songwriter who told us that life was perfect. And maybe that's no bad thing. As he said himself, "I'm a kind of Everyman. I epitomise America."

- Spencer Leigh

George Malcolm

George John Malcolm, harpsichordist, pianist, organist, conductor, choirmaster, composer; born London 28 February 1917; Master of the Cathedral Music, Westminster Cathedral 1947-59; CBE 1965; Papal Knight of the Order of St Gregory 1970; died London 10 October 1997.

Was George Malcolm a harpsichordist, pianist, organist, conductor, choirmaster or composer? He was all those and a very good man, a loyal friend too, even if he was reserved and something of a loner.

As a pianist he was virtuosic but his performances somehow lacked depth; as a harpsichordist this did not show and he was a star performer on the instrument, although he never concealed his preference for the piano, seizing the opportunity of playing it whenever possible, as for example in a duo he enjoyed for some years with the violinist Manoug Parikian. On the jangle box - as he often called his harpsichord - he played for many years with Yehudi Menuhin.

Malcolm enjoyed great success for many decades, but

principally in the Fifties and Sixties. This was an age when authenticity had scarcely been heard of. The instrument-maker Tom Goff's harpsichords were the order of the day, rich-sounding, although they required constant attention.

In many ways Malcolm was a conservative but he coaxed sound out of the harpsichord that seemed to emulate the resources of the modern grand piano and concert organ. For example, he used the registers and pedals in a way that eventually was regarded as unacceptable; he could even achieve the impossible by making a crescendo (which shocked especially some German recording producers).

Concurrently with his career as an instrumentalist George Malcolm was Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral for 12 years from 1947, during which time he made perhaps his most lasting contribution to the music of our time; he made the boys put aside the typical Anglican ethereal sound (that often becomes a hoot) for a more natural sound - "the sound boys make in playground" was how Malcolm sometimes put it.

Benjamin Britten heard the Westminster boys and composed a little masterpiece for them, his *Mass in Brevity*. First performed on 22 July 1959, it turned out to be a leaving present for Malcolm, who resigned that year, tired of struggling with administration and administrators. Although he was himself a good organiser, and a tireless worker, Malcolm always spoke his mind to the point of being prickly. He was a brilliant organist. As a choir-master he was strict, even testy at times, but there was a mutual affection with the choir, particularly with the boys, whom he loved.

Malcolm's ancestry was Scottish but he was born in London. His father having died when George was a boy, he lived with his maternal grandparents of a mother for the rest of her long life. At seven he became the first child to be admitted to the Royal College of Music in London and played the violin at his interview with Sir Hugh Allen.

At Balliol College, Oxford, Malcolm became famous as a roof climber, indeed notorious when he nicked a Christopher Wren-designed bauble from

the roof of a rival college. Came the Second World War and he directed a RAF band, conducting a lot of light music and becoming a heavy drinker. In the 1940s, he fell from a second floor window, surviving with difficulty and facial surgery.

George Malcolm was a devout Catholic, and he never practised the homosexuality I am certain was part of his nature. The drink was a way of escaping, perhaps; however, just when it seemed to be ruining his career, Malcolm grit his teeth and gave it up. He was nothing if not courageous. But he still continued to roll his own cigarettes, dropping them in the saucers of the unending cups of coffee. His taste in food was schoolboyish - the meal he enjoyed the most was smoked salmon, followed by meringues and cream.

I first encountered George Malcolm when he played continuo for some concerts in the BBC's Maida Vale studios, with the Boyd-Neel orchestra conducted by Georges Enesco. Like others of his generation Enesco barely tolerated the harpsichord and shunned Malcolm whenever he could hear him. Except when Malcolm played the solo

quite magnificently in the Brandenburg Concerto No 5 by Bach: there was this deadpan musician giving the most virtuosic yet somehow penetrating performance - there was no one to touch him at that time.

Even if George Malcolm's style of playing eventually went out of fashion, there must be thousands who cherish the memory of his playing that illumined the great masters, especially Scarlatti, Bach and Handel, even if one suspected that what he really enjoyed more was playing Mendelssohn on the piano. His recitals with Julian Bream on lute and guitar were a source of great joy to performers and audiences alike.

He did quite a bit of conducting, mainly with the now-defunct Philomusica of London, where he was artistic director 1962-66, and the BBC's Scottish Orchestra. He often directed the Cantata Academica for Britten, in the pit for the operas and on Decca recordings. He never became a big-time director partly because his body language seemed too angular, all elbows, not pleasing to watch.

Malcolm composed too: some pleasing church numbers



A star player on the 'jangle box': Malcolm in 1971

Photograph: Hulton Getty

and a fine set of variations on a theme of Mozart (he came from a generation, who, like Beethoven, pronounced the name "Mozart") for four harpsichords composed for himself and others to play at one of Tom Goff's unofficially termed "jambores" at the Festival Hall. Malcolm had no original

gifts at composing but was an attractive *pasticheur*, at his best in a three-minute number that should have been called "Bach Goes to Sea" but became "Bach Before the Mast".

The day before he was due to record on the harpsichord Alec Templeton's "Bach Goes To Town", the producer rang up

and asked what they could put on the other side of the record. "Oh, I'll bring something," he said and sat up all night writing a brilliant fugue in the style of Bach with a subject based on the sailor's hornpipe. Brilliant and typical of a great all-round musician.

- John Amis

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

McFELIN: Denis Francis, aged 77 years, died at home in Crowthorne, on 8 October 1997, after a long illness, peacefully borne. He will be sorely missed by his wife, Maura, children: Tom, Stephen, Collette and Rose, and grandchildren: Jamie, Rob, and William. Denis will be held on Thursday 16 October 1997, at Holy Rood Church, Banbury, at 10am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to St Peter's Hospice, 104 Church St, Banbury.

MALCOLM: George John, CBE KSG, died peacefully at his home on 10 October, after a short illness. Deeply loved and admired by his many friends and fellow musicians. He will be sadly missed. Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Warrington, on Tuesday 21 October, at 2pm, followed by private cremation. Memorial Requiem Mass at Westminster Cathedral, date to be announced. Enquiries to Ashton Funeral Services, 0181-946 1051.

IN MEMORIAM

SMITH: Evelyn and Gladys, died May August 1997. In gratitude to my dear sisters for all the encouragement and support they gave me during my OU studies. I will never forget you. God bless you both. Love Dave xx. David Smith BA (Hons).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 071-292 2811 (24-hour answering machine 071-292 2812) or faxed to 071-292 2880, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Forthcoming marriages

Dr R. B. Clayton and **Miss C. J. Thorpe**
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Harold Clayton, of Hathersage, Derbyshire, and Catherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Thorpe, of Poole, Dorset.

Birthdays

Lord Barnett, former MP, 74; **Mr Reginald Bottini**, former trade union leader, 81; **Mr John Boyd**, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, 64; **Mr Roland Butcher**, cricketer, 94; **Mr Steve Cam**, athlete, 37; **Mr Vivian Davies**, Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities, British Museum, 50; **Mr John de Courcy Ling**, former MEP and diplomat, 64; **Mr Thomas Dolby**, musician, 39; **Mrs Elizabeth Esteve-Coll**, Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia, 59; **Sir Leslie Fletcher**, former chairman, The Rank Organisation, 75; **Sir Christopher French**, High Court judge, 72; **Professor John Griffith**, barrister and professor of Public Law, 79; **Air Chief Marshal Sir David Harcourt-Smith**, 66; **Mr David Hinchcliffe** MP, 49; **Mr James Hodgson**, former vice-chairman,

British Telecom, 72; **Professor Victor Hoffbrand**, haematologist, 62; **Mr Joe Hyman**, former company chairman, 76; **Mr William Jarvis**, racehorse trainer, 37; **Sir Richard Lucas**, Governor of Gibraltar, 61; **Ms Christine McCafferty** MBE, 52; **Mr Roger Moore**, actor, 70; **Sir Derek Quiller QC**, former permanent secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 70; **Françoise Pascal**, actress, 48; **Mr Thomas Prentice**, life president, Harrisons and Crossfield, 78; **Sir Cliff Richards**, singer, 57; **Mr John Roques**, senior partner and chief executive, Touche Ross & Co, 59; **Mr Roger Taylor**, tennis player, 56; **Mr Christopher Timothy**, actor, 57; **Miss Carole Tongue**, MEP, 42; **Mr Kieran Tunney**, playwright, 75; **Mr Alan Williams** MP, 67; **Mr Derek Wood QC**, Principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford, 60.

Lectures

Tate Gallery: Philip Hoare and Michael Bracewell, "Divinely Deceived", 6.30pm (tickets required). **Kling's College** London, London WC2: Sarah Spencer, "Structure and Powers of a UK Human Rights Commission", 1pm. **RIBA Architecture Centre**, London W1: Colin St John Wilson, "A Way of Teaching, St John of Building", 6.30pm.

ECI: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, St Peter's Research Trust, attends an "Evening of Magic" at Filmmakers' Hall, London EC2. The Duke of Kent, President, Royal Institution of Great Britain, and Patron, West of Engineering Society, attends Engineering in Health Week, London W1. **Princess Elizabeth**, Patron, attends a Council Meeting at the Hospital, London W1.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment presents the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards. The Queen's Colour Squadron march the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, head provided by the Grenadier Guards.

LAW REPORT: 14 OCTOBER 1997

US conviction made estate agent unfit to practice

The Director General of Fair Trading was entitled to make an order of unfitness to practice as an estate agent in respect of a person who, before the commencement of the Estate Agents Act 1979, had been convicted in the United States of an offence of burning real estate other than a dwelling house, contrary to the Michigan Criminal Law Act.

Antonelli v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Aldous) 31 July 1997

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of Samuel Antonelli against the decision of Mr Justice Buxton, dismissing his appeal against the decision of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who had dismissed his appeal against the determination of the Director General of Fair Trading under section 3 of the Estate Agents Act 1979 that he was considered unfit to practice as an estate agent.

The appellant, who had

been conducting estate agent's business in this country, had, in 1973, been convicted in the United States of an offence of "burning real estate other than a dwelling house", an offence contrary to the Michigan Criminal Law Act.

Michael Belloff QC and **Renée J Calkin (Hollwell Barrister)** for the appellant; **Duncan Ouseley QC** and **Rabinder Singh (Treasury Solicitor)** for the Secretary of State.

Lord Justice Beldam said that section 3(1)(a)(i) of the Estate Agents Act 1979 provided that the Director General of Fair Trading might make an order prohibiting a person from carrying on work as an estate agent if he considered that person to be unfit on the ground that he had been convicted of an offence involving fraud or other dishonesty or violence.

The appellant appealed, *inter alia*, on the grounds that the judge was wrong to hold that the 1979 Act had retrospective effect enabling the Director General of Fair Trading to take into account a conviction occurring before the commencement of the Act; that he was wrong to hold that the reference to a conviction in section 3(1)(a)(i) of the Act included a conviction before a foreign tribunal; that even if the reference to offences included foreign offences, the judge should nevertheless have held that such offences must also be offences known to English law; and that he was wrong to hold that the offence of burning a property which was not a dwelling house was an offence of violence.

The provisions in the 1979 Act giving the Director General power to disqualify were intended for the protection of the public. It would be quixotic to suppose that Parliament intended that the public should be protected from the activities of a practitioner convicted a week after the Act came into force but not from those of the practitioner convicted a week before.

The conviction of an offence of one of the types specified was only a precondition upon which the Director's powers

were exercisable. It seemed, thus, that Parliament had clearly intended to give the Director power to make an order of disqualification in respect of past convictions whilst trusting in his discretion whether he did so or not. Moreover, under the supplementary provisions in section 5(4), an order under section 3 ceased to have effect on the day on which the conviction relied on became spent for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Taking account of those factors, the judge was right to hold that the word "conviction" included a conviction before the passing of the Act.

With regard to second ground, it would seem anomalous if Parliament had not intended convictions for fraud, dishonesty or violence outside the United Kingdom as qualifying to enable the Director to make an order that the person so convicted was unfit to carry on estate agency work generally. It was said in support of the third ground that the appellant not have been found

guilty by a United Kingdom court on a charge framed as the charges were in the United States. That was undoubtedly true, but the description of the offences suggested that they must be of a particular kind and not necessarily specific to the law of the United Kingdom. The question was not whether the convictions were for specific offences but whether they were for offences which involved particular attributes.

The question raised by the fourth ground was whether an offence involving violence within section 3(1)(a)(i) included the application of force to property such as a building. The definition of "violence" in the *Oxford English Dictionary* cited to the judge was: "the exercise of physical force so as to inflict injury on or to cause damage to persons or property". There was no doubt that Parliament intended that convictions for an offence involving violence towards property should be within section 3(1)(a)(i). The appeal would be dismissed.

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Merger mania: Four deals worth £67bn set Footsie soaring

The merger mania sweeping the stock markets reached new heights yesterday as the City salivated over four huge deals worth a total of £67bn. The unprecedented rash of corporate activity saw the FTSE 100 index of leading stocks close 72.8 points higher at 5,300.1 points.

The £24bn merger between drinks groups Guinness and GrandMet cleared a crucial hurdle after Bernard Arnault, the flamboyant head of the French

luxury products group LVMH, dropped his opposition to the deal.

Meanwhile the Anglo-Dutch publishing group Reed Elsevier, whose titles include *Women's Own* and *TV Times*, announced a £19.4bn merger with Dutch rival Wolters Kluwer, and the roofing tiles group Redland found itself on the wrong end of a hostile £1.7bn bid from French building products group Lafarge.

To cap a remarkable day, shares in the

tobacco and insurance group BAT surged 10 per cent as dealers greeted the £22bn merger of its financial services businesses with the Swiss conglomerate Zurich.

The deal between Mr Arnault and Guinness-GrandMet comes just days before the European Competition Commission Karel Van Miert is expected to wave the merger, through provided the combined group disposes of some spirits brands. Responsibility

for vetting the other three deals will also fall to Mr Van Miert because of their sheer size. The EC automatically investigates where the combined assets of the parties exceeds 5bn ECU (£3.5bn).

Mr Arnault, who has lobbied hard against the Guinness-GrandMet merger from the day one has reached agreement with the two groups whereby he will receive a £250m payment and emerge as the biggest shareholder in the combined

business with an 11 per cent stake.

The merger will create the largest drinks company in the world and bring together a bewildering array of brands, incorporating anything from Johnnie Walker whisky to Gordons gin.

The merger between Reed-Elsevier and Wolters Kluwer will create the world's largest scientific publishing and information group. Shares of Reed, Elsevier and Wolters Kluwer rose

sharply on news of the deal as analysts said it would give the combined group a more powerful position in the market for legal books and electronic information.

The bid by Lafarge for Redland came just days after the struggling building materials group admitted it was a takeover target and would create the world's biggest aggregates and roofing tiles company.

Market report, page 26

Arnault drops opposition to Guinness/GrandMet deal

The main threat to the £24bn merger between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan was removed yesterday when the two UK drinks companies reached an agreement with Bernard Arnault, the head of French luxury goods group LVMH who, until now, has been hell bent on scuppering the deal.

Andrew Yates reports on how the record breaking drinks merger is now virtually certain to go ahead.

Mr Arnault has called a truce in his fierce battle to overturn the merger between Guinness and GrandMet. After months of secret and heated negotiations which involved regular meetings between Mr Arnault and senior executives at Guinness and GrandMet, the two sides eventually thrashed out an agreement at 7pm on Saturday evening.

Guinness has agreed to pay Mr Arnault's LVMH group a lump sum of £250m cash. The Frenchman will also receive another £250m by way of a special dividend when the merger takes place early next year.

Mr Arnault will also take up a seat on the board of the combined drinks company, to be called GMG Brands, as a non-executive director.

In return, GMG Brands will be allowed to distribute LVMH's spirits brands such as Moët & Chandon Champagne and Hennessy cognac around the world.

GMG Brands believes the deal will save it £20m a year on top of the £175m cost savings the merger is already expected to bring. Mr Arnault also expects to reap savings of £20m, a third of which will find its way back to Guinness which owns a 34 per cent stake in Moët-Hennessy, the spirits business of LVMH.

GMG Brands also believes the agreement will lead to a substantial rise in spirits revenues.

The agreement is also likely to have saved each group millions of pounds in legal and advisers' fees. Mr Arnault has called a halt to what promised to be a lengthy legal action against GMG Brands that could have cost the merged drinks group more than £1bn in compensation.

Mr Arnault has dropped his demands for a 35 per cent stake in a separately quoted drinks company and the merger of GMG's non-spirits businesses such as Burger King and Guinness' brewing division.

The dispute between GMG Brands and Mr Arnault started when the merger was announced in May and developed into a very bitter and public row.

Mr Arnault has spent more than £1bn buying up GrandMet shares to obtain a stronger position at the negotiating table in his determined attempt to scupper the original deal. He has also lobbied a host of institutional shareholders in Guinness and GrandMet on both sides of the Atlantic to garner support for his alternative merger plans.

LVMH is currently the largest shareholder in both the UK drinks group's with a 11.1 per cent stake in GrandMet and a 11.4 per cent holding in Guinness. This would entitle Mr Arnault to a stake of just over 11 per cent stake in GMG.

John McGrath, chief executive of GrandMet, said yesterday: "There were a lot of public histrionics which were not very dignified. Over the last few months we have had a whole series of private meetings to sort out an agreement. This is not a pay-off. It is an evolutionary deal ... that enhances shareholder value."



The listening commissioner: Karel Van Miert should wave through the Guinness deal. He will also vet the other three mergers. Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, added: "This comes as a great relief. It gives us more flexibility and we can introduce new brands around the world."

The agreement removes the

main obstacle remaining for the merger, which will create a huge force in the world-wide drinks business, bringing together a vast collection of famous brands including Smirnoff

Vodka, Gordon's Gin and Johnnie Walker whisky.

However, the deal still has to be cleared by the European Commission and the Federal Trade Commission in the US.

Both are likely to demand GMG gives up some of its Scotch whisky brands. If the merger gets the green light it should be completed by January.

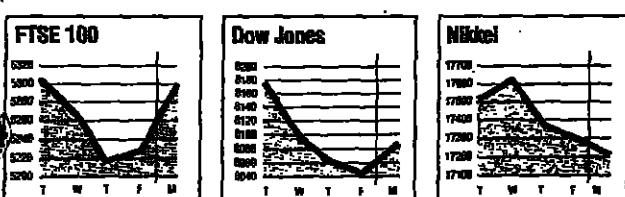
Philip Hawkins, a drinks an-

alyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "This is a pragmatic agreement. LVMH, which has had its own trading difficulties in the Far East, realises it was better off with the two strongest rivals. And the deal looks cheap for GMG Brands at twice the price."

GrandMet's share price jumped 21p to 604p and Guinness' shares rose 28.5p to 605.5p.

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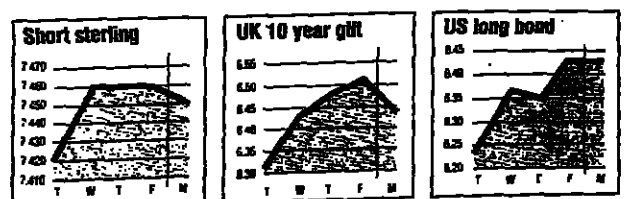
STOCK MARKETS



Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5300.10	72.80	1.39	5330.80	3900.40	3.29
FTSE 250	4920.00	45.70	0.94	4983.50	3448.10	3.87
FTSE 350	2545.90	32.80	1.31	2655.30	1949.20	3.28
FTSE All Share	2486.47	30.54	1.24	2492.41	1925.79	3.26
FTSE SmallCap	2387.0	8.30	0.35	2380.30	2128.40	3.06
FTSE Realind	1309.0	1.40	0.11	1346.50	1198.70	3.21
FTSE AIM	1011.9	4.20	0.42	1138.00	1003.60	0.96
Dow Jones	8065.97	30.54	0.49	8259.31	5972.73	1.63
Nikkei	17204.70	-172.22	-0.99	21612.30	17303.66	0.93
Hang Seng	14072.90	-200.22	-1.40	16673.27	12055.17	2.95
Dax	4251.40	42.88	1.02	4458.93	2653.25	1.98

INTEREST RATES



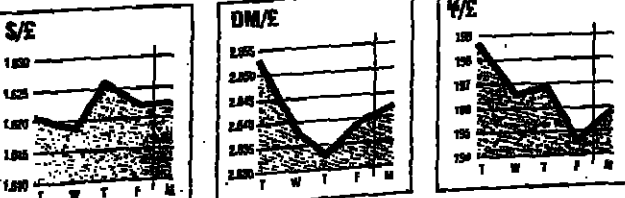
Money Market Rates

Index	3 month	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr
UK	7.37	1.37	7.82	1.30	6.44	-1.02	6.44
US	5.76	0.20	6.03	0.13	6.15	-0.40	6.43
Japan	0.53	0.04	0.58	-0.04	1.96	-0.88	2.80
Germany	3.60	0.49	4.05	0.83	5.59	-0.44	6.15

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Prices	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Fall	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
Redland	336.50	79.00	30.88	Alfred Colvills	107.50	-6.00	-5.29
Reed Int	629.00	97.00	15.43	Premier Farnell	526.50	-24.50	-4.54
Guinness Grp	329.00	34.00	11.36	RJB Mining	270.00	-5.00	-1.84
BAT Inds	609.00	58.00	10.82	Meyer Ind	433.5	-8.5	-1.97

CURRENCIES



Gold

Index	Price	Chg	% Chg	1 yr Ago	5 yr Ago
Dollar	1.6227	+0.153	1.5815	0.6163	-0.009
D-Mark	2.8435	+0.516	2.4175	1.7508	+0.016
Yen	195.93	+1.63	178.53	120.75	+10.89
£ Index	100.40	+0.20	87.80	104.80	+0.30

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Price	Chg	% Chg	1 yr Ago	5 yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	20.13	-0.81	23.48	112.80	3.50
Gold (\$)	328.75	-0.80	381.25	159.30	3.6
Silver (\$)	5.19	-0.05	5.03	7.00	5.75

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Redland may split up in response to £1.7bn French bid

Redland's answer to a £1.7bn hostile bid from French building materials group Lafarge may be to break itself up. The cash bid would create the world's biggest aggregates and roof tiles business. But Rudolph Agnew, Redland's chairman, insists there are better ways to please shareholders than saying "out" to Lafarge. Sameena Ahmed reports.

Rudolph Agnew, Redland's chairman, hinted yesterday that the group may be considering a full-scale break up to defend itself against Lafarge, the French building products group which yesterday launched a £1.7bn hostile bid for the company.

Lafarge's cash offer at 320p a share represents a hefty 45 per cent premium over Redland's 220p low struck just a few weeks ago after the group posted disappointing half year results and a 24 per cent premium to Redland's closing price on Friday. Redland has proved a terrible investment over the last few years.

A combination of a slowdown in Germany - half its business - the strong pound, bad weather and an ill-judged acquisition of a French business for which it overpaid has hammered its share price which stood at over 600p three years ago.

Although Mr Agnew would not give details about whether the company planned to sell off or float either its aggregates division, 30 per cent of sales, or its bigger roof tiles business, he indicated that some kind of demerger was likely. "That is clearly one of the considerations in our defence," he said. "This is an exercise in getting the true value of this company in play. We have to do

whatever we can to show the value of our businesses."

Analysts said that such a demerger, particularly of its UK and US aggregates divisions could release more value for shareholders than the Lafarge bid. Restrictions on quarrying sites means that demand for existing aggregates businesses is explosive and even tiny companies can command astronomical prices.

Last year, for example, Lafarge and Redland were involved in an extraordinary bidding war to buy Ennemiix a tiny UK aggregates company. Lafarge finally won paying £8.8m a full £2m more than Redland's opening offer. "I expect the telephone to be red hot with offers," said Mr Agnew.

A break up plan could involve a trade sale of Redland's aggregates side with the company retaining its roofing business RBB. RBB is 43.5 per cent owned by German group Braas, which could leave Redland as a quoted vehicle for a partially owned company.

Redland's share price closed yesterday at 16.6p above Lafarge's offer price, indicating that the market expected a higher bid. However analysts questioned whether Lafarge shareholders would support Lafarge raising its offer significantly, given limited opportunities for cost savings from the merger. Apart from the UK, there is little overlap between Lafarge and Redland aggregates businesses. Lafarge has no US operations and no experience of roofing tiles, 70 per cent of Redland's total sales.

Arend Dijkers, analyst at Salomon Brothers said: "There are no real synergies here. This is about Lafarge wanting to be bigger, especially in the UK. But in this industry there is no correlation between size and shareholder value. In fact it is the opposite. Bigger companies tend to do less well as they lose control of costs."

Reed Elsevier combines with Dutch rival to form £19bn publisher

Reed International, the UK publishing group which merged with Elsevier of Holland in 1993, is conducting another mega-merger that will make it an even greater force in markets such as legal publishing and on-line information.

Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on a market where size is becoming increasingly important.

Reed-Elsevier is combining with Dutch rival Wolters Kluwer to form a group valued at £19.4bn. Reed's chairman, Nigel Stapleton, said the new company, Elsevier Wolters Kluwer, would be the world's largest professional and scientific publishing group.

Though the deal will yield £50m of annual cost savings after the first three years, Mr Stapleton denied that cost-cutting was the rationale for the merger.

"This is about new technology and the need for scale. This is not a merger driven by cost-reduction," he said.

Mr Stapleton added that the combined group would continue to invest in the development of electronic material such as on-line information and CD-Rom products.

Analysts welcomed the deal, saying that in addition to the cost-savings, the product ranges of the two groups were complementary and it would eliminate a major competitor from the market.

Reed International's shares soared 97p to 629p, making them the day's best-performing blue-chip.

Louise Bardon of Henderson Crosthwaite said: "The businesses are complementary and it is a case of one plus one equals three. It eliminates a competitor in the law and tax sector and provides opportunities for creating new business."

She added: "The market is changing rapidly and becoming more concentrated on who can provide the content. This will give them more clout."

Anthony de Larrinaga of Panmure Gordon said: "This increases the pressure on the smaller scientific and legal publishers. Those who don't have the breadth and width of content will struggle."

The deal will need to be cleared by the European and US competition authorities but Mr Stapleton said he hoped to get clearance in early 1998.

The new company will have combined revenues of £5bn and



Nigel Stapleton: "Not driven by cost-reduction"

pro-forma profits of £1.3bn. It will have a combined staff of 42,000 worldwide. It will retain head quarters in the UK and Holland. The UK and Dutch businesses will both have identical board of 10 executive directors. Cornelius Brakel of Wolters Kluwer will be chief executive with Mr Stapleton and Herman Bruggink of Elsevier as deputies. Mr Stapleton admitted such a large board would be a little unwieldy but said that was not necessarily a barrier to value creation.

Under the terms of the merger Reed, Elsevier and Wolters shareholders will control 38.2 per cent, 34.2 per cent and 27.5 per cent of the combined company respectively.

Analysts said the deal did not necessarily make it more likely that Reed will sell its IPC consumer magazines division, which includes titles such as *TV Times*, *Marie Claire* and *Loaded*. Mr D Larrinaga said Reed would need to raise £1bn for the division to make it earnings-neutral. "What sell? Some are still market leaders and the company doesn't need the cash flow."

Comment, page 2

BAT investors welcome demerger plan

Investors in BAT yesterday reacted enthusiastically to the group's confirmation that it planned a £22bn to £24bn merger of its financial services arm with Zurich Insurance. The confirmation also triggered a wave of merger speculation in the insurance sector. Leo Paterson reports.

Shares in BAT Industries, the giant tobacco and financial services group, leapt by more than 10 per cent yesterday to close at 609p as the City absorbed the news

that it planned to split itself in two and merge its financial services business with Zurich Insurance, the Swiss financial services company. Shares in Zurich Insurance jumped by 5 per cent to 633 Swiss francs.

"The demerger is something people have been looking for for some time," said one analyst. "BAT shareholders should be pretty happy."

BAT, which owns UK insurers Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, said its shareholders would own 45 per cent of the newly merged business via an independent UK holding company. Zurich shareholders, via a Swiss holding company, will hold 55 per cent.

The deal was welcomed by analysts on two fronts. First,

they hope it will boost the value of BAT's tobacco arm, currently thought to be, on about eight times earnings, a figure Simon Willis of Charterhouse Tilney reckons to be "fairly lowly". The demerger will lead to increased transparency at BAT, which, according to Trevor Moss at Flemings, should "highlight the undervaluation of the tobacco business".

Second, the City reckons the deal will yield commercial synergies. Zurich will be able to retail its fund management products through Farmers, BAT's insurance subsidiary in America, which has a 14,000-strong sales force. Reinsurance is another area of overlap. "Eagle Star Re and Zurich Re combine well," said Mr Moss.

Speculation also focused on whether US tobacco litigation was behind BAT's decision to split its businesses. It has been suggested that if BAT has to pay damages, profits from its financial services division could be at risk under the company's current structure. Most analysts thought, though, that this is a driving force behind the deal. BAT channels its US tobacco business through subsidiary Brown & Williamson.

Confirmation of BAT's plans and news that Generali, the Italian insurer, had bid for AGF, the French insurer, buoyed shares in the insurance sector. Generali Accident and Commercial Union were viewed in the City yesterday as the two most likely candidates to forge deals.

Harrisons in talks to sell building merchants business

Harrisons & Crosfield, the beleaguered building and animal feed conglomerate in the throes of a restructuring programme, admitted yesterday it was in discussions to sell its building merchants business to the rival Meyer group. Andrew Yates finds the deal could raise much-needed funds for the ailing group.

Meyer International, the timber importer and builders merchants, is holding talks with Harrisons & Crosfield about buying its building merchants business for more than £300m. A deal would bring together the Jewson and Harcros chains and create the biggest building merchants business in the UK.

Bill Turcan, chief executive of Harrisons & Crosfield, said: "We are in talks with Meyer but I cannot say anything further at the moment. Our strategic review is on target to be completed by the end of October."

Our new chairman and I are looking at a range of options and we will announce our decision very shortly."

Jonathan Fry, former head of Harcros, joined Harrisons as chairman to oversee the restructuring of the group. However Mr Turcan refused to comment further on the outcome of the strategic review or whether the sale of Harcros could be the first of a string of disposals. It is also unclear whether Harrisons is holding exclusive talks with Meyer. Some observers believe rival builders merchants could also be interested in Harcros.

Analysts reckon the disposal proceeds could pave the way for a special dividend payout. One analyst said: "Harrisons & Crosfield has been a poor performer. It is about time they started to do something about it and give something back to shareholders."

Under fire from institutional shareholders after a dire share price run, Harrisons has launched a strategic review of its business empire. Most analysts believe the group will be broken up, achieved through trade sales or flotations of busi-

nesses. The group is also rumoured to be close to selling BOCM Pails, its animal feed business, for around £85m to George Paul, the group's former chairman.

A deal with Meyer would see Jewson's 211 outlets married with Harcros's 200 stores. Meyer would then control around one-fifth of the UK building materials market.

Meyer said the deal would be earnings enhancing in the first full year. It is thought to be looking to finance the deal via a rights issue.

Harrisons recently announced a slump in profits from £64m to £38.6m for the six months to June. However Harcros improved operating profits to £9.7m from £5m.

Separately Harrisons announced it was selling Moore's Lumber and Building Supplies, its US builders merchant, for \$63m (£39m) to MLBS, a venture capital-backed takeover vehicle. The group has made a loss of \$62m (£38m) on the deal.

Harrisons has been hit by intense competition in the US and has been forced to withdraw from the market.

Virgin Direct set to launch banking subsidiary

Virgin Direct, the financial services arm of Richard Branson's airlines to cola empire, is set to launch a banking subsidiary, offering a range of savings and loan products to consumers. As Nik Gatti explains, Virgin's entry into the market marks a new stage in savers' drift away from traditional high street banking institutions.

The announcement of Virgin's move into banking, expected later this week, is thought to

involve links with Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), which recently unveiled its own £600m takeover plans for Birmingham Midshires Building Society.

The deal is understood to be backed by AMF, the Australia insurance giant which is also a big investor in Virgin Direct and is said to be prepared to pump hundreds of millions more into the joint venture.

Virgin refused to comment yesterday on the deal, which comes barely two and a half years after Virgin's entry into the financial services market. Earlier this year, Virgin announced that it had more than £1bn in funds under management, having won hundreds of thousands of customers to its low-cost PEPs and personal pensions.

In recent months, Virgin has also launched a range of critical illness and term assurance products. Analysts have long argued the next logical step for Virgin lay in more traditional savings and mortgage accounts, where the company could compete effectively.

Other trail blazers in recent years have included Direct Line, which now offers both savings and mortgage products as well as motor and home insurance, and Sainsbury and Tesco.

Many observers predict a big slice of the market will be captured by these outsiders, who are able to offer competitive products by doing without expensive branch-based distribution networks.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Redland is worth more

Redland's rejection of Lafarge's £1.7bn all-cash offer looks, at first glance, like a slap in the face for its shareholders. This building materials company has no reason to be proud. A string of profit warnings has sliced the group's share price from a 634p high in 1994 to yesterday's 220p low before yesterday's bid at 320p a share.

Though it can blame some on rotten luck — like the economic slump in Germany, half of Redland's business — management cock-ups are the real problem. Five years after paying £1bn for French group Steetley the company is still trying to sell it off and admits it is vastly overpaid.

So how can Redland justify defending itself against an all-cash bid at such a huge premium? Particularly as there is no obvious second bidder for the whole company. While players like Hanson, Tarmac, RMC and South Africa's Mincor would salivate over Redland's aggregates business, this is just 30 per cent of the rest is pan-European roof tiles, a huge, but arguably less attractive part. Lafarge wants the lot.

Redland has no chance of

Premier Farnell's chief executive, says the first phase of the integration has been completed, the group faces a number of difficulties. The strength of the pound, which knocked £5m off interim profits, will slice £2m off the second-half figure. Second, the UPS strike in America will knock £1m off the second-half and, perhaps the most discouraging of all, the all-important US market seems to be growing rather slowly.

All this makes the share price outlook decidedly unexciting despite management's upbeat mood. The group is continuing to invest, spending £23m on working capital in the first half. Mr Poulson plans to build share in Europe and the Far East where the market for electronic component distribution is limited.

In America, the company is working to improve service levels and in Newark, the main US catalogue division, a new catalogue will be introduced for the first time in two years.

The downside here is that margins have been eroded by more than 2 percentage points by the increase in higher volume "special order" contracts.

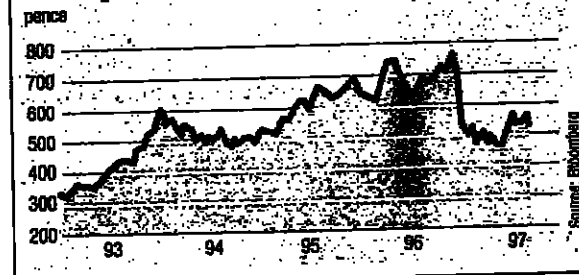
With analysts downgrading full-year forecasts from £160m to £145m the shares trade on 20 times forward earnings. Too high given the uncertainty over future sales growth.

Premier Farnell: At a glance

Market value: £1.4bn, share price 526.5p (-24.5p)

Trading record	1995	1996	1997	95/97	97/98
Turnover (£m)	514.2	538.9	982.8	442.3	375.5
Pre-tax profits (£m)	59.1	110.8	173.0	66.4	73.2
Earnings per share (p)	27.3	54.8	36.5	13.8	13.8
Dividends per share (p)	8.56	10.28	12.0	5.9	5.7

Share price



South Beach rolls out

London is on a high. The economy is booming. City bonuses are rising to obscene levels again and it has been widely acclaimed as Europe's trendiest city. Bright new bars and restaurants are popping up everywhere. South Beach Cafe is the latest of a long line of companies hoping to cash in on the good times.

Though still a toddler, the group plans to roll out its South Beach Cakes chain across the capital where customers can choose from a host of vegetable and fruit drinks as well as exotic coffees while nibbling on a bagel and tapping into the Internet. It is also looking to bring yet another pizza peddler to British shores. Pizza World will offer upmarket pizzas at downmarket prices. The group plans to have a string of outlets here by the end of next year.

Premier fails to impress

Premier Farnell, the electronics distributor, has hardly covered itself in glory since it paid £1.9bn for Premier early last year. It issued a messily handled profits warning within a year, caused by a depressed US market and strong pound. The City has treated the company warily ever since.

Premier Farnell's shares, which sank from 751p before the warning in January to just 450p in April, have regained just a fraction of their lost ground. Sadly, there was little cheer about in yesterday's half-year results. The pre-tax figure of £73.2m was towards the bottom end of expectations and the cautious tone of the statement had analysts scurrying to downgrade their full-year numbers. The result was a 24.5p fall in the share price to 526.5p.

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OUTLOOK ON THE SPATE OF TAKEOVERS, BERNARD ARNAULT AND NICHE PUBLISHERS

Merger mania with an added European twist

Whatever the collective term is for a group of Euro-takeovers (a concordat of the blighters, perhaps), we certainly had a belly full yesterday. What with Bernard Arnault settling for blood money and dropping his objections to the Guinness/Grand Met merger, BAT Industries' decision to sell (effectively) its huge insurance interests to Zurich, the Lafarge bid for Rodland, and the Reed Elsevier merger with Wolters Kluwer, we seem to have entered a new phase of merger mania - and one with a European dimension, what is more.

It is silly, perhaps, to generalise too much on the basis of four very different takeovers, each with their own special set of motives, but there are obviously some themes here. The first is the growing realisation among investment bankers that, with the narrower domestic market for consolidating mergers all but closed off by a hostile Labour government, it is important to go for a deal with a genuine European dimension to it, one that escapes consideration by domestic competition authorities and is instead examined by the more user-friendly and predictable officials of the European Commission in Brussels.

In itself, this seems to be forcing British industry away from domestic mergers and into cross-border ones. Add in the growing pressures of the single European market and the approach of monetary union, and it is obvious why companies are going this route. It may not be possible to buy market share in your own country any longer, but you can con-

solidate within the single market without too much interference.

For instance, it will undoubtedly be easier for BAT Industries to get the merger of Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar with Zurich cleared by Brussels than it would have been to persuade Mrs Blockitt (Margaret Beckett) to allow a similar merger in Britain with Commercial Union (which was the plan at BAT Industries last year).

The same goes for Grand Met and Guinness. The European Commission is about to clear this marriage with only modest conditions attached. Had it been Mrs Beckett's call, she would almost certainly have packed it off to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The second theme is an old one - pressure across all industries for consolidation and focus as markets become more international and global in nature. BAT's announcement encapsulates both pressures, demerger to allow the tobacco and insurance interests to roam free and merger to give the insurance interests a powerful new voice in Europe and beyond. The scope for cost cutting in the tie up with Zurich might not be as great as with some of the alternatives, but there do seem to be genuine synergies between the two, and in so far as it is possible to judge these things on the limited amount of information available, BAT shareholders are ending up with the better half of the deal.

Finally, there is the way in which the perceived scope for cost cutting, rationalisation and consolidation in industry and commerce is driving up equity values,

both here in Europe and in the US. Yesterday's 72.8 point rise in the FTSE 100 index was almost entirely down to the three big FTSE stocks directly involved in the latest outbreak of merger mania and the realisation that other big companies must now respond. We can expect a lot more of this sort of thing as the single currency approaches. Whether this is enough in itself to sustain stock prices at present buoyant levels is a rather more difficult question to answer.

Cost of getting Arnault on side

We live in the real world so the sight of Grand Metropolitan and Guinness paying Bernard Arnault £250m of what once upon a time would have been called "green mail" may not seem that shocking. The realist would say that given Mr Arnault's continuing ability to block the deal and generally make a nuisance of himself, £250m is cheap at the price.

However, there is a more purist view that would paint Mr Arnault as just another shareholder in Guinness and Grand Met, albeit a large one. In those circumstances he should not be entitled to any more than other shareholders are getting. It could be argued, as some in the City were yesterday, that Mr Arnault is getting what the takeover code specifically forbids - favourable terms.

Guinness has no doubt been properly advised on all this and it is true that ex-

tending present distribution agreements between Guinness and Mr Arnault to the merged group will bring in extra cost savings not originally identified - equal to about £27m a year by Guinness's estimation. There is some commercial benefit.

Even so it is hard to see what else has been achieved other than bringing a generally fractious shareholder on side. Furthermore, the £250m doesn't succeed in getting rid of the Arnault problem for good. He continues as a director of the merged group and his powerful fire-emption clauses in the joint distribution arrangements remain untouched. GMB Brands could easily find itself replaying this episode a few years down the line.

Deal makes Reed a powerful force

Learned tomes such as *Tolley's Income Tax* and the *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory* may sound as dull as ditch water and to the average man on the street they almost certainly are. But to experts who need to keep abreast of developments in these fields, they are vital. Publishers of this kind of material in the printed, and increasingly on-line, form can make a killing.

Reed Elsevier is already a powerful player in these markets. Its professional and scientific divisions, which include the *Tolley* and *Butterworth* imprints, have margins to die for and yesterday's near-£20bn tie-up with Wolters Kluwer of

Holland will make the enlarged group an even more dominant force.

For once it seems true that here is a deal that is genuinely not about cost-cutting. The tongue-twistingly named Elsevier Wolters Kluwer says the merger will yield £50m of savings a year after year three - which is just over 1 per cent of the combined group's cost base. That's not much. The enlarged group keeps headquarters in both Britain and Holland and just about everyone keeps their jobs in this one - in the boardroom at any rate.

If no significant cost cuts, why do it? The intention is to build up dominant content and then push it through a variety of formats such as print, CD-Roms and the Lexis-Nexis database. Judging by Reed's share price yesterday - up 18 per cent - the City generally buys the idea of a powerful combination increasingly able to put the squeeze on smaller rivals. Analysts are also impressed by the willingness of Wolters Kluwer to take on Reed so soon after the recent circulation-overstatement fiasco at Reed's travel subsidiary.

Business and professional information is a market that is rapidly consolidating - witness the recent Mafid deal with Knight-Ridder. Reed's surprise move has increased the pressure on other players, so more deals seem inevitable. It may also force the long-expected sale by Reed of its IPC consumer magazines division. However, with analysts saying Reed would need to raise £1bn from the sale just to achieve earnings neutrality, perhaps we should not be holding our breath.

RJB leads coal delegation to Downing St

Britain's coal industry, led by the biggest producer RJB Mining, has told the Government it should be allowed to take over and operate coal-fired power stations that are under threat of closure.

Michael Harrison reports on the latest attempts to provide a lifeline for the country's coalfields.

The Government was warned yesterday that eight pits and up to 4,000 jobs could disappear unless it acted to support the coal industry. A delegation to Downing Street, led by RJB's chief executive Richard Budge, urged officials to impose a temporary ban on approvals for further gas-fired stations and provide financial support for a new generation of environmentally friendly clean coal power stations.

However, the industry is also drawing up plans to save redundant coal-fired generating capacity from being moth-

balled and dismantled. Industry executives believe that before being allowed to close coal-fired stations, the three big fossil fuel generators should be required to offer it to other parties.

"If there is coal burning capacity that is coming off the system that has useful life, then it makes sense to offer it to someone else to operate. It would also help stimulate competition," said one executive.

Later, Mr Budge said the 90 minute meeting with Geoff Norris, who advises the Prime Minister on energy, as "useful" but refused to be drawn further.

The plea for support coincided with news that another gas-fired station is to be built. GEC Alsthom has won a £140m order to construct a 380 megawatt combined cycle power plant near Manchester for the US-owned group AES Partington.

In the last week the go-ahead has been announced for 2,700MW of gas-fired capacity. This will reduce demand for coal by nearly 5 million tonnes a year - equivalent to the output of three large collieries.

A fortnight ago PowerGen announced the closure of a

400MW unit at Ferrybridge C power station in Yorkshire, reducing the market for coal by a further 1 million tonnes a year.

The delegation from the Confederation of UK Coal Producers told Downing Street that a fundamental review was now needed of the UK electricity generating market, arguing that it was increasingly biased against coal. While the review is being conducted, it wants a moratorium on any further consents for gas-fired stations.

The incoming Labour government angered the coal industry in August when it gave

the go-ahead for a 1,200MW gas-fired station at BP Chemicals' Salt End works near Hull.

Kevin Barron, the Labour MP for Rother Valley, attacked the decision yesterday. "It's sad about the recent permission to build a gas-fired power station - we said we weren't going to do that," he told Radio 4's *Today* programme.

"What we need to do in this country is to have an energy policy that is sustainable, that is diverse and is secure. Deep mine coal is an essential part of that, and I think everybody understands that."

City investors predict UK will join euro early

A new survey of fund managers revealed that three-quarters of them reckon Britain will join the single currency before 2002. This suggests the financial markets have already started making the adjustments necessary for UK membership, says Diane Coyle, Economics Editor.

Only one in 10 of the UK-based investors covered by Merrill Lynch's regular survey said they believe Britain will never join the European single currency. Fully 76 per cent think the UK will be in from 2001 or 2002, before the end of the current Parliament.

This surprising degree of consensus has emerged after a leak of the Government's intention to take a more positive approach towards membership of Europe's economic and monetary union. This topped several pennings off the pound's exchange rate against the German mark at the end of last month and took gilt yields much closer to low German yields.

Bijl Shah, global strategist at Merrill Lynch, said: "Given that the vast majority of managers expect the UK to join EMU, much of the convergence yields between UK gilts and German Bunds may already have occurred."

The pound climbed a little on the foreign exchanges yesterday because of disappointing figures on producer prices. Even so, it ended at DM2.84,

still well below its level of DM2.87 two weeks ago.

The latest official figures for prices paid by manufacturers for their raw materials, and charged at the factory gate, were described as "disappointing" by City analysts.

Input prices increased 0.5 per cent last month, and the year-on-year rate at which they are falling was 7.8 per cent compared with 8.3 per cent in August. Output prices rose 0.2 per cent in September, to a level only 1.4 per cent higher than a year earlier. Underlying prices, excluding energy, food, drink and tobacco, rose 0.1 per cent in the month and 0.8 per cent year on year.

This showed inflation at the start of the chain to be tame but not quite as subdued as expected. In particular, food prices are showing signs of an inflationary pick-up.

But with manufacturing lagging behind the rest of the economy, prices charged for services and wages present a greater cause for concern. "The unemployment and earnings data due this week will be much more important for the path of base rates," said Adam Cole of James Capel.

A survey of high street sales by the British Retail Consortium showed a sharp dip in sales growth last month. The BRC said the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales had reduced sales by an estimated £230m, but it said spending had begun to slow even allowing for this. On a "like-for-like" basis, adjusted sales were up at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent compared with 3.9 per cent in August.

Reports confirm north-south divide grows even wider

The north-south divide, bugbear of the British business cycle, has reopened, according to two new reports. House prices in Greater London have risen two times faster than the national average, according to the latest regional breakdown from Halifax. In the third quarter of this year they rose by 1.8 per cent in the capital compared to a national average increase of 0.9 per cent and a decline of 0.7 per cent in Northern Ireland.

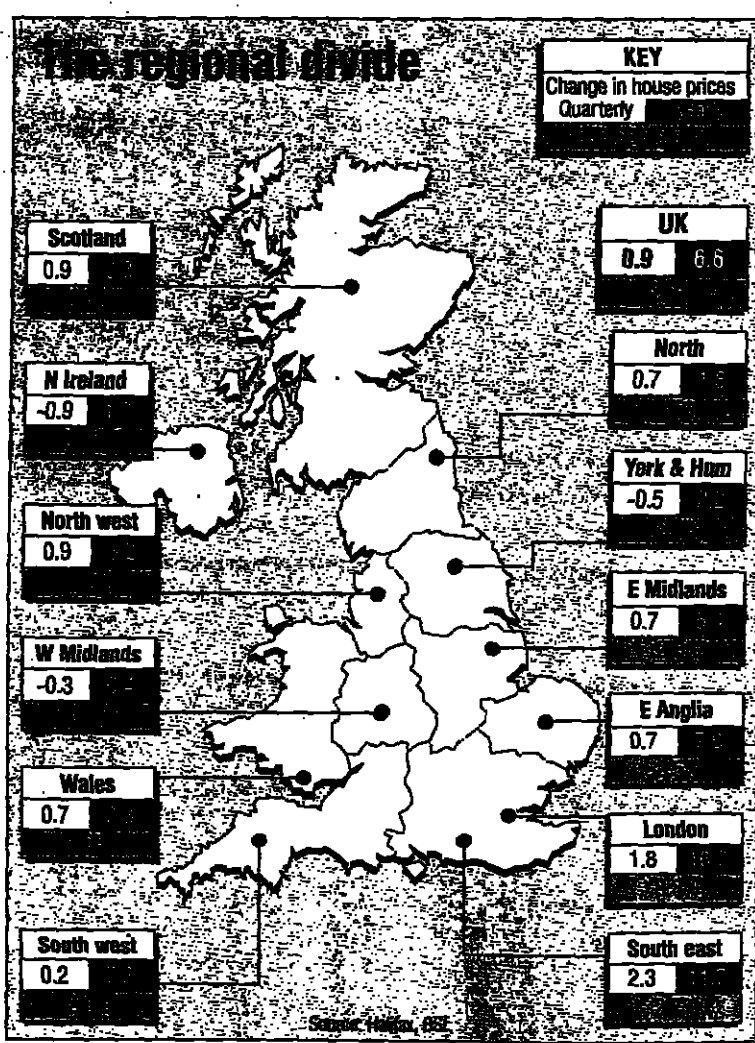
House price booms normally ripple out slowly from London through the South-east and on to the rest of the country and in July Halifax reported that this pattern had begun to emerge.

However, in its commentary yesterday, it said: "The latest figures show little evidence that the so-called 'ripple effect' is gaining momentum."

As a result the gap between northern and southern prices-gapes wider. The average semi in a pleasant London suburb such as Ealing costs £186,250, according to Halifax's figures, while a similar property in Harrogate would cost only £70,450. The national average price of a semi is £65,898.

A separate report yesterday focused on the uneven regional spread of the economic recovery. Business Strategies Ltd (BSL) said the combination of booming consumer spending with limping growth in manufacturing meant that "the old north-south divide is opening up again".

Neil Blake, a director of the consultancy, said London, the South-east and the South-west, along with



parts of the east Midlands, were prospering because of their greater exposure to consumer spending and private sector service businesses.

The report predicts private services will grow by 6.4 per cent this year, compared to a meagre 1.7 per cent expansion in manufacturing.

BSL is predicting the boom will be short-lived, with growth slowing to 2 per cent next year from a likely 3.4 per cent this year. However, the report puts average economic growth at 2.7 per cent between 1993 and 2000, compared with 2.2 per cent between 1982 and 1993.

- Diane Coyle

IN BRIEF

Judge refers no-win no-fee issue to Court of Appeal

Whether a group of smokers with lung cancer can sue the UK tobacco industry hangs in the balance after a High Court hearing on Friday failed to decide whether their lawyer was liable to pay costs should he lose his case. Mr Justice Popplewell has referred the issue over who pays costs, regarded as make or break for no-win no-fee group actions in the UK, to the Court of Appeal. He also placed a gagging order on Martyn Day of solicitors Leigh Day, which is bringing the case and on Imperial Tobacco and Gallaher, the UK tobacco companies being sued. Mr Day last week told *The Independent* that he would be forced to drop the case if there was a risk he would be liable for costs. Weekend press reports that the court has dismissed claims by 21 of the 47 cases are erroneous. Leigh Day has dropped four of the 47 lung cancer cases. Of the remainder, 22 are suing both Imperial and Gallaher and 21 will sue just one of the companies. Leigh Day is considering another 35 lung cancer cases and expects to bring another 25 into the proceedings.

BAA passenger figures grow

BAA has had its busiest September with more than 10 million passengers using airports, an increase of more than 7.4 per cent on the same month last year. Flights to Eire and North America both grew by more than 10 per cent, with European charter flights and domestic flights up by 8.2 and 7.6 per cent respectively. Southampton airport had the highest growth with an increase in passengers of 16.1 per cent.

Bovis Homes to be floated

P&O announced plans to float 100 per cent of its Bovis Homes subsidiary by early December. Malcolm Harris, chief executive of Bovis, said the housing market was far from running out of steam and the timetable was justified. P&O will float the shares in a placing. Details will be set out in a pathfinder prospectus to be published in November. Mr Harris said concerns that the UK housing market was running out of steam were misplaced. In 1996 Bovis Homes completed the sale of 2,456 homes and made an operating profit of £29.4m. Analysts have forecast a flotation value of £250m to £300m for Bovis.

First for Family Assurance

Family Assurance has become the first friendly society to launch a separate investment management company. It is handing over control of its £1.5bn fund to Pavilion Asset Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Family which will be based in Brighton. Family will initially compete for business with charities and other friendly societies. Christopher Edge, chief executive, will then aim to expand funds under management by at least £50m a year by bidding to manage pension funds in the Sussex region.

Kingfisher postpones talks

Kingfisher has postponed discussions with Michel Venturini, managing director and major shareholder of But, on whether to buy out his family's 30 per cent stake in the French company. In July, Kingfisher, which already holds a 26 per cent stake, announced it was discussing buying the stake for around £300 per share. However, Kingfisher said it still had the option to buy a controlling interest.

Rugby buys into Polish firm

Rugby Group has acquired a 34 per cent stake in Cementownia Chelm, a Polish cement manufacturer, for £15.4m, with an option to increase ownership to 75 per cent for a total price of £60.5m. Chelm is undergoing a modernisation programme and hopes to complete a cement plant capable of producing 1.6 million tonnes a year by the middle of 1999. A member of Rugby's senior management is moving to Poland to work on the modernisation programme. In 1996, Cementownia made profits before tax and extraordinary items of £200,000 on sales of £33.2m. It commands a 10 per cent share of the Polish market.

Scandinavian banks merge

Merita, Finland's largest bank, will merge with Nordbanken, the third-largest bank in Sweden, it was announced yesterday. The new bank will be worth around \$10.6bn (£6.3bn).

Waterstone to set proposals before WH Smith today

WH Smith will finally meet Tim Waterstone today to discuss his audacious restructuring plans for the high street struggler.

But as Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports, his revised set of proposals may still receive a frosty reception.

Both sides declined to comment on the planned meeting yesterday but it is understood that Jeremy Hardie, WH Smith's chairman, and Richard Handover, its new chief executive, will meet Mr Waterstone today in an attempt to assess if his proposals have any merit for shareholders.

Ian Martin, the Unigate chairman who is being proposed by Mr Waterstone as deputy chairman of the re-

vised group, will also attend the meeting.

The decision to get together represents a major climbdown for Smith's, which rejected Mr Waterstone's original proposals outright. The change of heart follows a week-long series of meetings between Mr Waterstone and key WH Smith's institutional investors who are unhappy at both the company's woeful share-price performance and, some say, the cavalier

approach of the Smith board.

Mr Waterstone will present a revised set of proposals to Mr Hardie and Mr Handover at the meeting. Instead of the original 200p per share payout, which would have been funded by almost £600m of new debt, Mr Waterstone will propose a distribution of between 125p and 150p. Shareholders will also receive shares in a new company with around £400m of debt.

The new proposals, under

which Mr Waterstone would install himself as chief executive, also see a far lower valuation attached to Daisy & Tom, Mr Waterstone's children's operation which has a single shop on London's Kings Road.

Instead of the £35m valuation in the original proposals, the deal will suggest a £9m valuation, the same sum as invested by Mr Waterstone and backers. Additional payments would be made on an earn-out basis.

WH Smith is still reeling from earlier revelations that its non-executives had not been present when it was decided to reject Mr Waterstone's bid.

Though reports suggested Mr Handover had said the board was unanimous it is understood that Michael Orr was in Brussels and Marjorie Scardino was giving briefings on Pearson. Martin Taylor did not attend either.

Outbreak of merger mania sends Footsie racing higher

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN
STOCK
MARKET
REPORTER
OF THE YEAR

It was more action packed than even the more tumultuous takeover days of the 1980s. Suddenly four major deals, worth a staggering £67bn, hit the stock market in quick succession, inevitably provoking speculation about future corporate activity.

Shares of the principal players romped ahead. BAT Industries, hoping to merge its financial operations with Zurich of Switzerland, rose 58p to 609p and Reed International, on the proposed merger of Reed Elsevier and Wolters Kluwer, reacted with a 97p jump to 629p.

With LVMH bowing to the Grand Metropolitan and Guinness merger the two drinks groups were in celebratory mood with Grand-Met up 21p to 604p and Guinness 28.5p to 605.5p.

Redland, the hard pressed

building materials group, added 79p to 336.5p as Lafarge, the French group, bid £1.7bn, or 320p a share.

Heavy trading in Redland, which quickly rejected the offer, indicated the French picked up stock.

The possible spin-offs from the deals added to the intense excitement of merger Monday. Shorn of its financial operations BAT could seek to develop its tobacco side. Gallaher, floated in May, is the market's favoured target and the shares rose 34p to a 329p peak. Imperial Tobacco was also caught in the smoke signals, swirring 20.5p higher to 391.5p.

The BATs adventure also drew attention to insurance shares. The market is appreciative of the existing strains and stresses which could prompt more corporation ac-

tion and was quick to hoist such shares as Prudential Corporation, up 29.5p to 698p, and GRE, 17p to 342p.

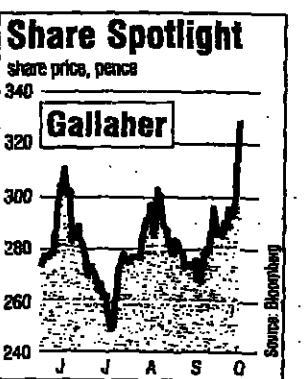
On the drinks front Allied Domecq was a beneficiary of the sudden LVMH compliance. The suspicion the GrandMet/Guinness alliance will force it into a defensive merger - Seagram of Canada or Pernod Ricard of France - boosted the shares 12.5p to 509p, highest since last year.

The market was so besotted by the sudden outbreak of merger mania that even a deal which was put on hold drew applause. Kingfisher's decision to defer plans to take control of BUT, the French chain, by buying a further 30 per cent prompted a 25p gain to 857.5p. The Woolworth's group already has 26 per cent of the electrical retailer.

The sheer deluge of corpo-

rate action sent Footsie racing 72.8 points higher to 5,300.1 and the two main supporting indices moved to new peaks.

Friday's two modest bids prompted further activity as the Far Eastern Jardine Motors scooped up 8.78 per cent of its intended victim, Apple, the traffic control group, signalled a 36.5p gain to 78.5p follow-



ing the after-hours £98m (80p) offer from the US, Thermo Power, which moved into the market to lift its stake to 9.64 per cent.

British Aerospace, which said overseas investors had reached 28.7 per cent of its capital, and Rolls-Royce were higher on talk the Government is on the verge of lifting the ceiling on foreign shareholdings from 29.5 per cent to 49.5 per cent. Rolls, up 7.5p to 236p, greets Scandinavian investors on Thursday under the auspices of Henderson Crosthwaite. BAe was 27p harder at 1,726.5p.

Imperial Chemical Industries was a significant absentee from the sea of blue. It shaded 4p to 982p as worries persisted about its third-quarter results. BSKyB, the satellite broadcaster, was another subdued blue chip, softening

2p to 445.5p as Merrill Lynch downgraded its stance to neutral.

Halford had the dubious distinction of being the worst performing blue chip, falling 11.5p to 730.5p in brisk trading.

Tradeport, the stock market in miniature, continued to benefit from next week's switch to order-driven trading, gaining 12p to 148.5p. Flare, an engineer, firmed to 118p despite the departure of chairman Ian Gowrie-Smith; his family's 8 per cent interest was placed with institutions at 110p.

Dawn Tilt Dusk, a chain of convenience stores, fell 15p to 242.5p after admitting getting a decimal point in the wrong place. On Friday the company said like-for-like sales were up 31.5 per cent. Yesterday the advance was corrected to 3.15 per cent.

TAKING STOCK

Speculation Prestbury
Leisure is set to become a vehicle for Nigel Wray and Nick Leslau strengthened as the shares were suspended after a 5.5p gain to 9.25p. The company said it was in talks which could lead to an acquisition. There had been expectations Prestbury would buy a football club but such a deal now seems unlikely.

Carbo, the engineer restaged under Ken Jackson, has duty sold its factory for just over £2m. Since the revamping exercise started three years ago businesses worth around £20m have been sold. At 29p Carbo is valued at £22.9m.

Label group Jarvis Porter added 8p to 230.5p as take-over hopes resurfaced. Britain, in receipt of a US bid, has indicated the hidden value in packaging. Jarvis was 310p last year.

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Alcoholic Beverages								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Banks, Merchant								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Banks, Retail								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Breweries Pubs & Rest								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Electricity								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Food Products								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Gas Distribution								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Health Care								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Household Goods								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Insurance								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Investment Trusts								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Life Assurance								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Media								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Pharmaceuticals								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Property								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
Support Services								
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00
52	498.50	485.00	Alkerm	498.50	+10.00	3.10	18.0	0.00

52 week								52 week							
High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld		
52	28	Alkerm	337.50	+11.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	52	850	Bancorp	850.00	+10.00	3.4		
53	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	53	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
54	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	54	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
55	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	55	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
56	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	56	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
57	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	57	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
58	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	58	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
59	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	59	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
60	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	60	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
61	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	61	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
62	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	62	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
63	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	63	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
64	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	64	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
65	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	65	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
66	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	66	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
67	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	67	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
68	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	68	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
69	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	69	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
70	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	70	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
71	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	71	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
72	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	72	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
73	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	73	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
74	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	74	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
75	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	75	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
76	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	76	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
77	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	77	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
78	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	78	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
79	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	79	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
80	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	80	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
81	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	81	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
82	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	82	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
83	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	83	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
84	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	84	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
85	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	85	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
86	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	86	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
87	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	87	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
88	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	88	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
89	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	89	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
90	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	90	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
91	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	91	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
92	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	92	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
93	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	93	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
94	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	94	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
95	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	95	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
96	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	96	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
97	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	97	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
98	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	98	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
99	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	99	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		
100	28	Amgen	329.00	+1.00	3.10	18.0	0.00	100	850	Bancorp	849.00	+10.00	3.4		

We must learn how to live in a world of low inflation



**HAMISH
McRAE**
ON THE
GLOBAL
ECONOMY OF
NEXT CENTURY

A new week and - after the dismay of the past few days - a new burst of enthusiasm on the markets. For the moment at least all that concern seems to have evaporated; all those parallels with October 1987 or even 1929 seem to have been brushed aside.

But the concern itself is interesting: this natural desire to seek patterns of the past which might give a guide to the future. This is perhaps the dominant feature of financial analysis at the moment. On the one hand, people do believe the future is going to be different from the immediate past: hence all this justification for the continued share price boom. But to get a feel for the possible financial conditions which will dominate the first years of the next century we tend to look backward, not forward.

There is one question - is this cycle like all the others? - which has been widely discussed. There is another, which is only just starting to come up on the radar - in what ways will the world economy and financial markets be different in the next 50 years from everything that we've experienced in the past 50? Here are five thoughts on this second question.

Thought one is that demographic change alone will have an enormous impact on financial markets. We will have to see a shift away from state pensions to private ones: pensions being paid by people's own savings, rather than taxation on the dwindling proportion of people of working age. So there will be a big surplus of personal savings over the next 20 years, which will then be run down as the savers draw their pensions. This surplus of savings, at least in the developed countries, will mean that for a couple of decades there will be a lot of money swishing around. This suggests that real rates of return on capital will tend to fall but that capital values of assets will be underpinned.

Thought two leads on from this. Many of the investment opportunities will be in what we still think of as the developing countries. At some stage in the first decade of the next century (the World Bank reckons 2004, the IMF nearly 2007) it looks as though the combined output of the developing world will exceed that of the developed, reversing a situation which has existed for about 150 years. Money for at least part of this progress will be funded by the savings of the developed countries.

So while there will be a shift in economic power towards the developing countries, ownership of many of their assets will shift to the developed world. This ought to be a mutually beneficial economic arrangement, similar to the surge in international investment at the end of the last century. But it would be naive not to admit that it will create political tensions, some of which we've caught a glimpse of in the past few weeks in Malaysia. Expect continued rapid growth of developing countries and expect high returns. But expect, too, big bumps, political and economic.

Thought three is that the trend towards lower inflation is now secure and the next century, like the last one, may be

one of stable prices. Disinflation is driven by three forces: the power of the bond markets, which meet any rise in inflation with higher long-term interest rates; the extension of international trade to many large low-wage countries; and the values of older voters who will not wish to see their pensions eroded by inflation.

This we can see. What we've hardly begun to think about, except perhaps in Japan, is the danger of overshooting and experiencing a long period of falling prices. In theory this is fine. All people - children, non-workers, the retired - would benefit from falling prices rather than workers benefiting from rising wages. The whole of society would thus share the results of productivity gains rather than people who happen to be in the right jobs. But adjusting the stable prices is tough on people who have only known inflation and tough on policy-makers who won't know how to cope. Expect, too, lower nominal returns on cash. Getting used to a world where interest rates are 3 to 5 per cent is tough for people used to returns of double that. Getting used to the idea that growth and falling prices can go together will be harder still.

Thought four carries on from here. The first years of the next century are going to be a period of big adjustment. The great engine of productivity will keep on generating gains. We will go on thinking of ways of producing better goods more cheaply and better and cheaper services. But these gains will not mean much higher living standards. Instead the benefits will be siphoned off into the costs of coping with the ageing population. The smaller workforce will see less of a return for itself. Meanwhile, savers will become more concerned with preserving the real value of their savings, rather than trying to achieve the double-digit gains of the past 20 years. If you

want higher returns, you'll have to go abroad, which will mean accepting higher risks.

So risk will be different, and this is thought number five. Instead of there being large inflation risks, there will be deflation risks. Instead of there being large swings of interest rates, there will be smaller movements, but in a world of stable prices, smaller movements will have larger effects. Currency risk will change, with major currencies having a more stable relationship, though not as stable as the Bretton Woods exchange rate system of the immediate post-war years. That does not mean that a single European currency will find it easier to survive, particularly if it becomes associated with slow growth of living standards. But it does mean that it will have a more stable relationship with the dollar and other currencies.

Company risk will change, too. The idea that earnings of most large companies will reliably increase year after year will have to go. A larger proportion will be unable to produce improved results each year. For higher returns, people will have to go to smaller companies and to start-ups, accepting more risks. There will be greater rewards for spotting new, growing firms and fewer rewards for over-analysing larger, old ones.

Of course these five propositions will in some measure be wrong. What will almost certainly be right is that the early years of the next century will be very different from anything which people aged under, say, 70 will have experienced in their lifetime. It's so hard to see turning points when you're on the cusp. We may or may not be in a cyclical turning point in the markets, but it does look as though we're between two big secular trends, the inflation world of the post-Second World War period, and something quite different in the most globalised economy the world has

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

**JOHN
WILLCOCK**



It must be a bit galling to finally get the top job after years of sweat, knowing that it will last for only six months. Chris Woodburn is replacing Richard Farrant as chief executive of the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the City's main regulator, but only until Labour's embryonic super-watchdog, NewRO, takes over next April.

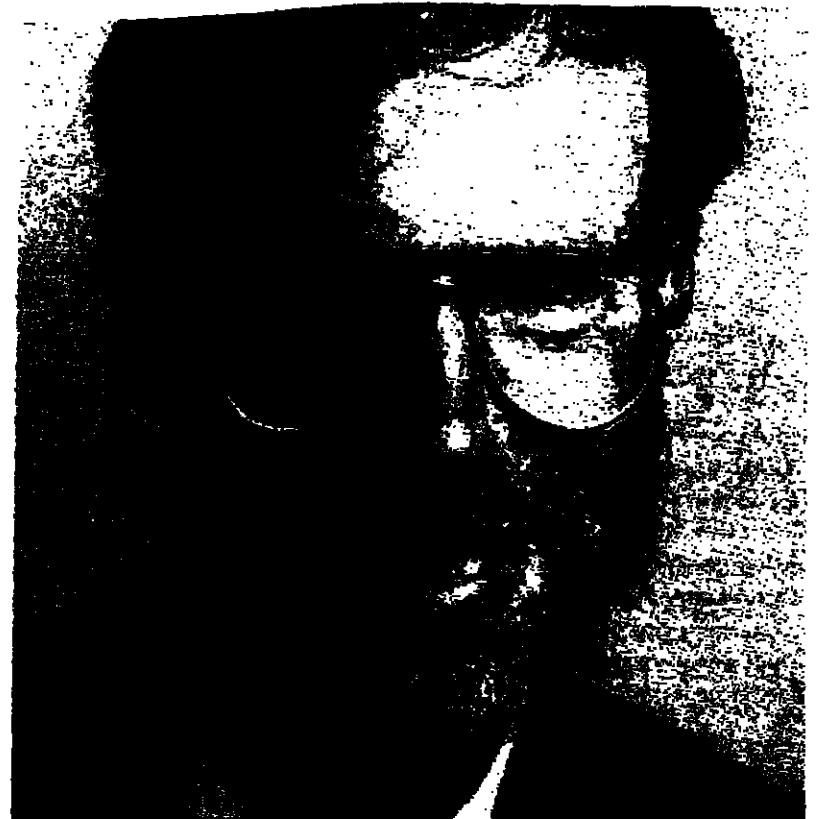
Mr Woodburn will oversee the SFA's handover of authority to NewRO. After that he will be responsible for winding up what is left of the SFA until it disappears in a puff of smoke under legislation due to be passed late in 1999.

None of which will bother Mr Woodburn, who helped create the SFA's predecessor, The Securities Association (TSA). TSA was set up under the Financial Services Act 1986 and was then merged with the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers in 1991 to form the SFA. It seems that, as far as the UK's regulators are concerned, perpetual revolution is the order of the day.

Mr Woodburn trained as an accountant with Deloitte & Co, now part of Coopers & Lybrand, and he cut his teeth as a regulator with the London Stock Exchange, which he joined in 1974. In those days people in the City were largely left to get on with it and regulation was a cottage industry.

But the important question is - who got Mr Farrant's airy and comfortable offices with their views looking north over the Thames towards St Paul's Cathedral? I hear a number of SFA insiders have their eyes on it, so Mr Woodburn had better get his skates on if he wants to stake his claim.

Congratulations to Simon Pincombe, once author of this column's forerunner,



Who will get Richard Farrant's old offices with their superb views?

Column Eight, who has left the press office of UBS to join arch rival investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Simon refused to be drawn on just how much wedge he will be trowering as DMG's head of corporate communications, but jealous City sources are whispering that his package is "well north of a hundred grand". Indeed, some Forex dealers were overheard yesterday making deals in "Pincombes".

The departure of the electric guitar-playing former journalist and alpine ski legend, coming as it does so soon after that of Lisa Spira, former long-time head of communications at UBS in London, has prompted City gossip-mongers to speculate whether more far-reaching changes are afoot at the Swiss bank. With half of BZW being put up for sale, anything can happen in these days of investment banking consolidation.

Whatever, Simon says he is looking forward to working alongside Markus Will, overall boss of press relations at DMG. There's just one problem: "I'm now on five weeks' gardening leave. The only problem is I haven't got a garden."

places Nick Woolf, who left Nomura to join US investment house Robertson Stephens as adviser on UK biotech companies. Mr Refsum, who was one of the biggest fans of Biocompare, the ill-fated coatings group whose shares fell from over £14 to under £5 in a few weeks when it failed to settle a key deal, is thought to be taking gardening leave. (The UK's gardens will soon be in perfect condition at this rate.) Perhaps he is waiting for share prices in the depressed sector to blossom before he starts talking up his favourite stocks.

Roger Looker will resign as chairman of RPS Group, the Abingdon, Oxfordshire-based environmental consultancy, on 23 October, in order to concentrate on his pub and restaurant interests. Dr Alan Bearn, chief executive of the company, said: "Roger concluded he had contributed everything he could to the business and now was the time to let someone else have a go." Mr Looker will be succeeded by Brook Land, a former partner of City law firm Nabarro Nathanson.

David Went is to succeed Irish Life's managing director, David Kingston, when he retires next year. Mr Went is chief executive of Coutts Group, the international private banking arm of National Westminster Bank.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	1 month	3 month	Dollar	1 month	3 month	D-Mark	1 month	3 month
UK	100.00			1.0000			1.0000		
Australia	2.1889	2.1889	2.1889	0.6770	0.6770	0.6770	0.6770	0.6770	0.6770
Belgium	36.5636	36.5636	36.5636	1.3603	1.3603	1.3603	1.3603	1.3603	1.3603
Canada	1.2409	1.2409	1.2409	0.7083	0.7083	0.7083	0.7083	0.7083	0.7083
Denmark	10.78	10.78	10.78	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
France	16.70	16.70	16.70	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Germany	23.49	23.49	23.49	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Greece	204.8	204.8	204.8	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Hong Kong	10.78	10.78	10.78	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Italy	20.36	20.36	20.36	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Japan	160.9	160.9	160.9	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Malaysia	3.80	3.80	3.80	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Netherlands	3.20	3.20	3.20	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
New Zealand	2.1889	2.1889	2.1889	0.6770	0.6770	0.6770	0.6770	0.6770	0.6770
Norway	13.71	13.71	13.71	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Portugal	200.48	200.48	200.48	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Spain	166.37	166.37	166.37	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Sweden	10.78	10.78	10.78	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584
Switzerland	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584	0.6584

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	10.00	10.00	China	0.0926	0.0926
Brazil	1.00	1.00	India	0.0080	0.0080
Canada	1.00	1.00	Indonesia	0.0000	0.0000
France	1.00	1.00	Japan	0.0000	0.0000
Germany	1.00	1.00	Malaysia	0.0000	0.0000
Greece	1.00	1.00	Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000
Hong Kong	1.00	1.00	Norway	0.0000	0.0000
Italy	1.00	1.00	Portugal	0.0000	0.0000
Japan	1.00	1.00	Spain	0.0000	0.0000
Malaysia	1.00	1.00	Sweden	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands	1.00	1.00	Switzerland	0.0000	0.0000
Norway	1.00	1.00	UK	1.00	1.00
Portugal	1.00	1.00			
Spain	1.00	1.00			
Sweden	1.00	1.00			
Switzerland	1.00	1.00			
UK	1.00	1.00			

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Fund	Sell	Buy	Ytd	Fund	Sell	Buy	Ytd
ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00	ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00
ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00	ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00
ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00	ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00
ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00	ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00
ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00	ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00
ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00	ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00
ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00	ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00
ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00	ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00
ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00	ABN Growth Trust Ltd	28.79	28.79	0.00

Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
3 month	3 month	3 month	3 month
3 month	3 month	3 month	3 month
3 month	3 month	3 month	3 month
3 month	3 month	3 month	3 month
3 month	3 month	3 month	3 month
3 month	3 month	3 month	3 month
3 month	3 month	3 month	3 month
3 month	3 month	3 month	3 month
3 month	3 month	3 month	3 month

Bond Yields

Country	3 month	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Australia	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Belgium	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Canada	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
France	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Germany	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Italy	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Japan	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Malaysia	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Netherlands	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Norway	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Portugal	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Spain	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Sweden	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
Switzerland	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85
UK	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85

Money Market Rates

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open

Life FTSE 100 Index Option

Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open

Energy

Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open

Commodity Indices

Index	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Index	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Index	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Index	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Index	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open

Industrial Metals

Aluminum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Aluminum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Aluminum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Aluminum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Aluminum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year

Precious Metals

Platinum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Platinum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Platinum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Platinum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Platinum	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year

Agricultural

Cocoa	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Cocoa	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Cocoa	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Cocoa	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Cocoa	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year

Other Softs

Dec Live Cattle	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Dec Live Cattle	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Dec Live Cattle	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Dec Live Cattle	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year
Dec Live Cattle	Cash	3 month	6 month	1 year

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Collins doing the business on the water

George Collins is the man who liked the Whitbread Round the World Race so much he spent \$5m on a yacht and a top-line crew.

Stuart Alexander talks to the American investment manager, who is beating the cream of ocean racing at their own game.

When the Whitbread fleet of ocean racers crosses Chesapeake Bay next April to finish the seventh leg in Baltimore, George Collins will, he says, "almost be able to reach over the guard rail and shake the hands of my friends as we race to the finishing line. As a matter of fact it goes right by my house."

Here is a man, a competitor and fan, who liked the idea of joining the world's best in the best round-the-world race so much that he bought himself a place on the start line, his city a major role as host and his favourite piece of water the starting role of being writ large on the side of his 64-foot yacht, *Chessie Racing*.

But this is not just the whim of a dilettante. To be the chief executive officer of a multi-million dollar company you have built up yourself needs a competitive streak. He insists that this is not just a game to take his mind off things now that he is semi-retired at the age of 57 from the investment management business he created. That he is not another example of the blazer brigade meddling in

sport because they have nothing else to do.

"I could have bought a minor league baseball team, but I couldn't play and would probably only have ended up interfering in the training," he said. "I'm not a spectator, I would rather be out there participating. But at my age there are very few games in which you can still participate and enjoy it."

Not that Collins has not had to modify his expectation about when he can play in the team, and when he can not. At the moment he is waiting to fly to Cape Town to welcome in his boat, skippered by Mark Fisher, at the end of the 7,350-mile first leg, but he will not be joining them for the second leg across the rough and testing southern ocean.

The delivery trip across the Atlantic Collins undertook aboard *Chessie Racing* taught him his limitations on what can be a bucking bronco of a beast when the wind whips up. On one 24-hour run they topped 400 exhilarating, but nerve and muscle-jangling miles.

"This is a non user-friendly, full-on racing machine. This type of boat is very difficult," he says. Instead of racing, Collins' contribution is cold, dispassionate management skills and a funding programme that ensured that every development worth doing was done and a top-line crew properly paid.

Collins has had to dig deeper into his pockets than he first thought. He put up the basic \$2m (£1.3m) to pay for the boat, expecting other sponsors would jump aboard clutching another \$3m. They did not, but "it's been a good stock market, so I



George Collins on board *Chessie Racing*: 'At my age there are very few games in which you can still participate and enjoy it' Photograph: Peter Jay

have stepped up," Collins says. That has meant no reasonable request being refused, staying calm when gear was breaking during the bedding-down period when he was "ripping up my dollars".

"This is serious stuff. It doesn't come more serious than this," Collins says, "and I don't want things to blow up when it counts. Then you are in deep trouble."

The planning was meticu-

lous, the training serious and his crew have been in the top five since the race started in Southampton on 21 September. *Chessie Racing* is ahead of the favourite *Toshiba*, skippered by Chris Dickson, and

the 1994 Whitbread winner *Ross Field* on America's Challenge. Only bad luck will stop them maintaining their position to Cape Town.

This is not an amateur affair, but there is, however, the inevitable vein of romance. The picture of a monster on the side of the yacht recalls how grandfather Wilson came from Glasgow as a baby, along with a bottle of water from Loch Ness which was poured into Chesapeake Bay. For Nessie read *Chessie*.

Collins' boat was fifth yesterday, 173 miles behind the leader, *EF Language*, as light airs slowed the fleet on the final 2,500 miles to Cape Town. Paul Cayard, the skipper of

EF Language, was predicting 20 hours of uncertain winds as the back markers in the 10-boat fleet reduced the gap and Britain's Lawrie Smith tried, from fourth place, to outflank the polestar.

Cayard, leading by 14 miles from Grant Dalton on *Merit Cup*, was battling to make headway. "We are going nowhere - fighting to go 100 metres in 10 minutes during the last four hours," he reported.

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (first leg, 7,350 miles, Southampton to Cape Town) Latest positions: 1 *EF Language* (Swi) P Cayard 2480 miles to finish; 2 *Merit Cup* (Mon) G Dalton +14 miles; 3 *Innovation* (Neth) K Frost +22; 4 *Sail Car* (GB) L Smith +175; 5 *Chessie Racing* (US) M Fisher +175; 6 *America's Challenge* (US) R Field +247; 7 *Toshiba* (US) C Dickson +248; 8 *Swedish Match* (Swi) G Krenitz +251; 9 *Education* (Swi) C Gullou +425; 10 *Brunei Surinergy* (Neth) R Bouchotte +552.

Goss and Dinelli stand out among big boats

The stormy baptism for the Anglo-French pairing of Pete Goss and Raphael Dinelli, the man he rescued last Christmas, was looking good yesterday after the first 48 hours of the Jacques Vabre two-handed transatlantic race.

When Goss pushed his 50-footer *BMW Performance* into the teeth of an oncoming gale

at the start in Le Havre on Saturday his main target was to be among the top monohulls at the end of the 4,500-mile run to Cartagena, Colombia, knowing that most of the opposition were 60-footers.

Yesterday he was disputing third place with Yves Parlier and Eric Tabarly in *Aquitaine Innovations* as these two took

the more westerly option after a rough rounding of Ushant. Leading the monohulls are Jean Mauriel in *Saupeyrie* and Marc Thiercelin in *Somewhere*.

The multihull leader, by a long way, was Loick Peyron in *Fujiolour*, chased by Francis Joyon in *Ranque Populaire* and Paul Vainie in *Chauss d'Europe*.

— Stuart Alexander

ICE HOCKEY

Devils given boost by Thornton

Steve Thornton helped to steer the champions, *Carroll Devils*, to a 6-3 Superleague win over *Bracknell Bees* on Sunday.

Thornton, who suffered an arm injury last week, was back in action at the earliest opportunity and hit the target after just eight seconds.

Elsewhere, Jamie Steer scored twice for *Ayr Scottish Eagles*, who managed to complete a well-deserved weekend double over *Nottingham Panthers*. Having beaten them 4-2 in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final first leg on Saturday, they won 6-3 in their home Superleague encounter the following evening.

Kevin Conway grabbed the first and last goals for *Basingstoke Bison* in their 4-3 home win over *Manchester Storm* after overtime.

Conway gave *Bison* the lead after just 54 seconds and then struck the game-winning goal after two minutes and one second of overtime.

Newcastle Cobras are still pointless after two Superleague games. They lost 4-1 away to *Sheffield Steelers*, for whom Scott Allison scored twice.

Brett Stewart scored for the Cobras whose man-of-the-match, their netminder Wayne Cowley, was in inspired form against his former club.

SUPERLEAGUE: *Ayr* 4 *Nottingham* 2; *Sheffield* 4 *Newcastle* 1; *Basingstoke* 4 *Manchester* 3 (ot); *Cardiff* 6 *Bracknell* 3.

PHILIPS



Today we publish the latest results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. Due to the weekend's international matches, the player scores remain unchanged and therefore both individual scores and the league table are calculated from all games played until October 5th.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in *The Independent* and repeated the following Sunday in *The Independent* on Sunday.

HOW TO SCORE	
player score	4
clean sheet	4
winning goal	1
successful assist	3
yellow card	-1
red card	-3
manager's team wins	3
draw	1

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 5 OCTOBER			
POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Mr Chris King	Seeking Victory	439
1	Mr Phil Tufel	Pin Ups 4	439
10	Mr David Evans	Bootham Old Boys	439
5	Mr John Cox	Southville FC	439
6	Mr B Srai	Simply the Best	433
6	Mr B Srai	The Unouchables	427
6	Mr Stewart Scott	The Dream Team	427
6	Mr David Aston	Bill Boys 2nd II	427
9	Mr Stewart Scott	Unbeatable	426
10	Mr David Baler	Dead Beat	425
11	Mr Martin Pawley	Roberta Rovers	424
11	Mr Chris Thomas	Scunthorpe Extras	424
13	Mr Archer	No Wright	423
14	Miss Lisa Wild	America	423
15	Mr Michael Rickard	Aller Lamborg	420
16	Mr Mike Mitchell	Enduring Image	418
16	Mr G Whitehead	The Team Team	418
18	Mr P Green	Powis Rangers	416
18	Mr Ken Boyle	Clogston Rovers	416
18	Mr G Bell	Scunthorpe Saints	416
21	Mr K Brady	The Final Selection	415
21	Mr Brady	Look Lively	415
23	Mr E Gromley	Celtic Warriors	413
23	Mr Trevor Russ	Savvy's Soccer Scorchers	413
23	Mr Killerby	Killerby Bees	413
25	Mr J McClochon	Washed Up Army	412
25	Mr David	Borham Borham United	412
28	Mr Abdul Choudi	Nickies 9th II	410
29	Mr A Reynolds	The Hedghogs	409
30	Mr Tom Lyons	Tom's Pocket Battle Ships	408
31	Mr J McCrosser	Washed Up Army	407
31	Mr A Cunningham	The Zebras	407
33	Mr A Stennet	Beep Barp Poop	406
34	Mr Steven Plan	Rebecca Rovers	405
34	Mr David Baler	Deja Vu	405
36	Mr Chris Thomas	Scunthorpe Special Rus	404
37	Mr Ian Boile	Wendy Bundlers	403
37	Mr A Wingrove	Tony's Brace	403
37	Mr Tom Lyons	Diana's Demons	403
37	Mr Tony Brazier	Wow For Shors	403
41	Mr Robert Johnson	Golden Moons	402

GOALKEEPERS			
POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Seaman	ARS	0 26 4.0
2	Lukic	ARS	0 0 1.0
3	Manning	ARS	0 0 1.0
4	Bonich	AV	0 20 4.0
5	Oakes	BAR	0 11 1.0
6	Wason	BAR	0 3 1.0
7	Lame	BLA	0 12 1.0
8	Flan	BLA	0 12 1.0
9	Brangan	BOL	0 21 1.2
10	De Goeij	CHE	0 25 1.0
11	Groden	COV	0 26 2.2
12	Oguzovic	COV	0 26 2.2
13	Holman	CRY	0 0 1.0
14	Nash	CRY	0 0 1.0
15	Day	CRY	0 0 1.0
16	Polon	DER	0 0 1.0
17	Roult	DER	0 0 1.0
18	Southall	EVE	0 0 1.0
19	Kewen	LEE	0 22 3.3
20	Corrady	LEE	0 0 1.2
21	Keller	LEE	0 28 2.5
22	Polak	LIV	0 0 1.5
23	James	LIV	0 17 3.5
24	Waller	LIV	0 0 1.5
25	Schmidt	MAN	0 38 5.5
26	Van D Gower	MAN	0 0 1.2
27	Glover	NEW	0 0 4.5
28	Hilipon	NEW	0 0 2.5
29	Prosser	SHEF	0 16 3.0
30	Taylor	SOU	0 0 1.8
31	Bezzant	SOU	0 0 1.0
32	Walker	TOT	0 36 3.4
33	Barren	TOT	0 0 1.0
34	Milnes	WH	0 10 1.5
35	Sullivan	WH	0 18 2.7
DEFENDERS			
POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Dixon	ARS	0 18 2.5
2	Upson	ARS	0 0 1.0
3	Poti	ARS	0 31 4.2
4	Graham	ARS	0 17 2.7
5	Winterburn	ARS	0 27 4.0
6	Watt	ARS	0 17 2.5
7	Bould	ARS	0 12 4.5
8	Adams	ARS	0 20 3.0
9	Stanton	AV	0 24 3.0
10	Southgate	AV	0 20 3.2
11	Elgin	AV	0 24 3.2
12	Nash	AV	0 20 3.0
13	Wright	AV	0 20 3.0
14	Scimeca	AV	0 18 2.5
15	Grayson	AV	0 18 2.5
16	Moses	BAR	0 13 1.5
17	Apolly	BAR	0 10 2.0
18	Thompson	BAR	0 0 1.0
19	Kyriani	BAR	0 3 1.0
20	Berg	MAN	0 31 5.0
21	Le Saux	CHE	0 31 5.0
22	Coleman	BLA	0 0 3.0
23	Handy	BLA	0 29 1.9
24	Kenn	BLA	0 28 2.0
25	Handy	BLA	0 28 2.0
26	Valley	BLA	0 20 3.0
27	Anderson	BLA	0 4 2.5
28	Cox	BOL	0 6 2.5
29	Elliot	BOL	0 12 3.0
30	Falcough	BOL	0 0 2.0
31	Baggart	BOL	0 18 2.5
32	Manning	BOL	0 12 3.0
33	Duffy	CHE	0 15 1.0
34	Duffy	CHE	0 15 1.0
35	Petraco	CHE	0 33 3.0
36	Wason	CHE	0 12 3.0
37	Leahou	CHE	0 20 3.0
38	Stead	CHE	0 18 2.5
39	Dale	COV	0 27 3.0
40	Shaw	COV	0 25 3.2
41	Burrows	COV	0 22 3.2
42	Robert	CRY	0 14 1.5
43	Edworthy	CRY	0 14 1.5
44	Gordon	CRY	0 25 3.0
45	Watt	CRY	0 14 1.5
46	Tittle	CRY	0 11 2.0
47	Laughlin	CRY	0 16 3.0
48	Robert	CRY	0 16 3.0
49	Heidrean	CRY	0 8 1.0
50	Shaw	DER	0 15 1.5
51	Cox	DER	0 17 1.5
52	Lauren	DER	0 17 1.5
53	Erwin	DER	0 17 1.5
54	Platten	EVE	0 7 3.0
55	Short	EVE	0 7 3.0
56	Robert	EVE	0 18 3.0
57	Robert	EVE	0 18 3.0
58	Robert	EVE	0 18 3.0
59	Hinchcliffe	EVE	0 8 3.5
60	Hinchcliffe	EVE	0 37 4.0
61	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
62	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
63	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
64	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
65	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
66	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
67	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
68	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
69	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
70	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
71	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
72	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
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74	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
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98	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0
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100	Robert	LEE	0 19 3.0

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Tamarisk appeals in vintage Dewhurst

Saturday's Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket promises to uphold its tradition in signposting future classic winners.
Greg Wood reports.

Racehorses can make fools of anyone, so there will have been relief at Newmarket yesterday when the five-day entries for their newly-christened Champions Day card on Saturday indicated that the immodesty will go unpunished. The Dewhurst Stakes promises competition and information in equally large measures, the Champion Stakes too could yet be a contest to make a long trip for, while the Cesarewitch will as usual cater for racgoers who enjoy the surreal ex-

perience of betting on a two-and-a-quarter mile race and first spotting a horse with half a mile left to run.

It is the Dewhurst, though, which should add serious numbers to the gate, and ensure that the international handicappers will not need to deliberate for too long when they meet to name the top two-year-old colt of 1997. Daggers Drawn, probably the best seen in Britain this year, and Xaar, perhaps the finest in France, will line up against Central Park, whose lateral form gives him the beating of Daggers Drawn, and Tamarisk, impressive winner of the Houghton Sales Stakes at the last Newmarket meeting. Daggers Drawn was no better than workmanlike when winning the Champagne Stakes at the Doncaster St Leger

meeting, but is still the clear Dewhurst favourite or joint favourite, with Xaar, in the lists of the leading bookmakers.

The contest also brings the best trainers on either side of

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Tycooness
(Ayr 3.20)
NB: Seconds Away
(Ayr 4.50)

the Channel into direct competition, and on recent Dewhurst form, it is Andre Fabre, who prepares Xaar, who will wake up in confident mood on Saturday morning. Henry Cecil, Daggers Drawn's trainer, has not won this race since 1982, while Fabre has saddled both Zafonic (1992) and Pennekamp (1994), both of whom returned to win the 2,000 Guineas.

This seems to be a well-come return to form for the Dewhurst, which over a five-year period between 1990 and 1994 was won by two subsequent Derby winners, two Guineas winners and a St James's Palace Stakes winner.

With two high-profile colts at the top of the market, meanwhile, there could be some value further down, and at this stage, the Tote's 7-1 against Tamarisk appears very fair. It cost £18,000 to get Roger Charlton's runner into the race at the recent supplementary stage, although after his latest victory, in a bonus-event for graduates of the Houghton Sale, his owners are still comfortably in the black.

"The owners have picked up more than £120,000 from his three races," Charlton said yes-

terday, "and there is more to be gained than lost by running him. The horse that wins will be the champion two-year-old, and to finish third or fourth is no disgrace in a race like this."

"The handicapper would probably have him six or seven pounds behind Xaar, five behind Central Park and three or four behind Henry Cecil's, so he needs to improve two or three lengths to win, but he's done everything we've asked of him and he hasn't had a hard race. We don't know what he'll produce when it's really required, but he's earned his place."

Saturday's second Group One race, the Champion Stakes, could be just as strongly contested as the Dewhurst, with Singisip, Pilsudski and Benny The Dip among the five-day entries, but as yet only

the Derby winner is a definite runner. "I'd strongly considered going to the Canadian International at Woodbine because it's a race he could win," John Gosden, Benny The Dip's trainer, said yesterday. "But the owner's rather keen to go to the Breeders' Cup and I didn't want to take a three-year-old, fly him out to Canada, bring him back and then turn him around in 12 days to send him off to California."

Thirty-four remain in the Cesarewitch, and the declaration of Canon Can, the Doncaster Cup winner, ensures there is no rise in the weights. The good news for punters is that all the prominent names in the ante-post market are still in the field. John Rickman, former anchor man for ITV's racing programme, has died aged 84.

RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

Thorpole looks overpriced at 40-1 with Ladbrokes for the Cesarewitch at Newmarket on Saturday, Coral offer just 20-1.

Following his victory in the Grand Criticism over a mile at Longchamp, Single Empire is a top-priced 9-2 with Coral for next year's 2,000 Guineas - Ladbrokes offer just 3-1. King Of Kings, his stablemate, is 12-1 with Ladbrokes - William Hill and the Tote offer just 7-1.

Single Empire is a best-priced 10-1 with Coral and the Tote for next year's Derby - Ladbrokes go just 5-1.

Embassy, the six-furlong Cheveley Park Stakes winner, is 6-1 with Coral for next year's 1,000 Guineas - the Tote offer just 4-1 - while Cape Verdi, who looks the sort to do better over a mile, is 12-1 with Coral, the Tote and William Hill go 8-1.

- Ian Davies

LEICESTER

1.30 Kings Arrow
2.00 Mulahen
2.30 Mulahen
3.00 Halmannor

GOING: Good to Soft. STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
● Right-hand, undulating course, with a straight mile. Run-in of 250 yards.
● Course is 2m 500 yds of city of Leicester. Leicester station (London, St Pancras - Sheffield line).
● ADM: 1000000. Club: 1000000. Club: 1000000. Club: 1000000.
● LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hannon 31-18 (37%), J. Gosden 28-37 (37%), J. P. Keenan 22-29 (32%), J. Gosden 28-37 (37%), J. P. Keenan 22-29 (32%).
● LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Dettori 18-17 (21%), J. Weaver 18-17 (21%), J. P. Keenan 22-29 (32%), J. Gosden 28-37 (37%), J. P. Keenan 22-29 (32%).
● FAVOURITES: 18-17 (21%), J. Weaver 18-17 (21%), J. P. Keenan 22-29 (32%), J. Gosden 28-37 (37%), J. P. Keenan 22-29 (32%).
● BLINDED FIRST TIME: Nostalgia (victoria) (100).

1.30 EBF REFERENCE POINT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (Div 1) £4,600 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £3,704

1. ABU CAMP (John M. Hannon) 11-10 (100%)
2. ALCAIDE (J. P. Keenan) 11-10 (100%)
3. BRUNO NOBLE (J. P. Keenan) 11-10 (100%)
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10. BRUNO NOBLE (J. P. Keenan) 11-10 (100%)

2.00 WYMERWOLD STAKES (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £4,518

1. ABSOLUTELY SPARKLING (J. P. Keenan) 11-10 (100%)
2. ABSOLUTELY SPARKLING (J. P. Keenan) 11-10 (100%)
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2.30 EBF REFERENCE POINT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (Div 1) £4,600 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £3,704

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3.00 WHISKEY SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 7f Penalty Value £2,889

1. HALLAM (J. P. Keenan) 11-10 (100%)
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3.00 WHISKEY SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 7f Penalty Value £2,889

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Service gets business talking

RUGBY UNION

Bath deny Rowell takeover rumour as Bristol hit hard times

Rugby union's sugar-daddy investors are showing signs of nerves as their balance sheets slide ever deeper into the red.

With the Allied Dunbar Premiership awash with rumours of takeover bids, rescue packages and impending bankruptcies, Chris Hewett examines the latest upheavals in a volatile financial landscape.

It is Black October in rugby's hard-up heartlands and for the money men in the boardrooms, life at the sharp end of a fledgling professional sport is becoming less and less of a novelty. Bristol announced losses of £486,671 yesterday and later this week, their infinitely better-heeled neighbours from Bath are likely to confess to an operating deficit of around three times that amount. No wonder the entrepreneurs are feeling jittery.

While Bristol insist they are close to securing the sort of seven-figure cash injection that would prevent them going to the wall, senior figures at Bath

are questioning the long-term commitment of Andrew Brownsword, the reclusive greetings card tycoon who bought 75 per cent of the club for £2.5m just over a year ago.

Yesterday, Brownsword scotched rumours that he was about to cut and run, but his denial was not enough to quash suggestions of a takeover bid.

Jack Rowell, the former England coach who spent 17 years of his life transforming Bath from backwater nobodies into the most successful club side in world rugby, is widely believed to be investigating a possible return to the Rec-

reation Ground at the head of a powerful consortium, including a High Street bank and a wealthy local businessman with strong family ties to the club.

"I'm in business-building mode at the moment," said Rowell yesterday. "I've certainly had no discussions with Bath Plc and I do not foresee any imminent involvement on my part. In fact, I'm thoroughly enjoying my break from the game."

He is, however, thought to have made Brownsword aware of his interest.

Certainly, the grapevine was talkative enough to force Brownsword's men into issuing

a rapid denial. Tom Sheppard, the club's company secretary, said: "I can categorically say that no meetings have taken place with any potential investor. Neither have we been approached to set up a meeting. Quite simply, Mr Brownsword's share of the club is not for sale. He did not become involved with rugby on a short-term basis."

However, Bath will have to raise extra capital if they are to realise their dream of leaving the cramped, futureless confines of the council-owned Rec and build a purpose-built stadium on some of the disused land in and around the city. Un-

less Brownsword is prepared to pump even more of his vast fortune into the club, a second major financial player will have to be brought on board.

Meanwhile, Arthur Holmes, the nearest thing Bristol have to a Brownsword-style investor, warned that clubs will continue to find it "impossible to equate expenditure and income". He blamed a chaotic fixture list and reduced financial support from the Rugby Football Union as prime causes of what is fast developing into a widespread financial crisis.

Holmes, who chairs Bristol's management board, has seen the club's salary bill escalate by £772,000. By comparison, revenue increased by just £326,000 and it does not require an economics graduate to understand the gravity of that discrepancy. Unsurprisingly, Bristol's auditors have issued a warning.

"New financial backing is now essential," said a spokesman for Kidsons Impey. "If discussions are unsuccessful and the company is unable to raise the level of finance required to meet short-term capital obligations, the company might be unable to continue operating." Bleak days indeed.

Guscott blow, page 31

Italy forced to play game of Russian roulette

The price Italy must pay for failing to win in Rome on Saturday is a two-leg play-off against Russia for the right to join England and Scotland at the World Cup finals. The Republic of Ireland face what might be an easier task, against Belgium.

Rupert Metcalf looks ahead to the last laps of the long road to France.

"Russia, along with Croatia and Yugoslavia, were one of the three teams that I did not want to have to face. So I can't say it went well." Those were the words yesterday of Paolo Maldini, the captain of Italy, after the draw in Zurich for the home-and-away play-offs which will conclude the footballing marathon that has been the European qualifying competition for the 1998 World Cup.

The draw could have been far kinder to the Italians, and it has only added to the mood of pessimism which has afflicted the nation after England's draw in Rome on Saturday ensured that Glenn Hoddle's men reached France '98 without having to bother with the play-offs.

Italy must travel to chilly Moscow for the first leg on 29 October, where they will meet a home team keen to gain revenge for a 2-1 defeat to the Italians at last year's European Championship in England.

The Republic of Ireland

will be at home for the first leg of their play-off against Belgium, at Lansdowne Road on Wednesday 29 October. Their last two meetings with the Belgians both ended in draws during the qualifying stages for the 1988 European Championship.

Frank Stapleton and Liam Brady scored in a 2-2 draw in Brussels while the return game in Dublin was a 0-0 stalemate. But Jack Charlton's team went

on to qualify for the finals, where Ray Houghton's goal brought them a famous triumph against England.

Charlton's successor as the Republic's manager, Mick McCarthy, knows that he will never emerge from big Jack's shadow unless he, too, takes his team to the finals of a major tournament. He insists that the Belgians must not be underestimated.

"Although Belgium lost both home and away to Holland, they also had a 100 per cent record in their six games with Wales, Turkey and San Marino. They will be no soft touch," McCarthy warned - but he added:

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Familiar figure: while much of Europe was concentrating on France and next summer's World Cup finals at the weekend, arguably the most famous French footballer made a brief

return to the pitch in Madrid on Sunday night when playing in a gala evening 'Football Against Racism' organised by the international players' union AIFP. Cantona (pictured right),

being challenged by the Peruvian Alvaro Barco) was the captain of one of three sides, the others being led by Mexico's Hugo Sanchez and Nigeria's Adegboye Mutiu. Photograph: Reuters

"I'm quite pleased with the draw. We didn't want to go to somewhere like Russia or the Ukraine, playing on difficult surfaces with the temperature below freezing point."

"The fact that Wales have played Belgium twice in the qualifiers means that we should be able to get a lot of homework done on them," McCarthy said.

"Bobby Gould is an old mate of mine. With his assistance, we should be able to know every-

thing about the Belgians before the first game in Dublin.

"Obviously, we need to be a little cautious in the away match but we will still be going on the attack looking for goals," McCarthy added. "Some of my players are so young they won't have any worries about playing the second leg away."

The Republic will implement the five-day rule in preparation for the first leg. That could rule a number of Irish

players out of important Premiership and First Division games. "We need the full five days' preparation. On this occasion there will be no exceptions to the rule. The players I want will all travel to Dublin," McCarthy vowed.

That could start a "club v country" row. The Premier League has confirmed that all fixtures on the weekend of 25, 26 and 27 October will go ahead as planned. There will be

no clash of interests for the return legs on 15 or 16 November, however, as there is no Premiership programme that weekend.

The draw managed to keep the Balkan countries apart. Croatia will be at home to Ukraine in the first leg, while Yugoslavia travel to Hungary, probably the weakest of the eight, on 29 October. The Yugoslavs will be strong favourites to reach France but Croatia

face a tough task against a rapidly improving Ukraine side based on Dynamo Kiev's talented club squad.

Coca-Cola loses fizz, page 30

THE DRAW

World Cup European play-offs

Croatia v Ukraine

Hungary v Yugoslavia

Republic of Ireland v Belgium

Russia v Italy

First-leg matches Wednesday 29 October, second legs Saturday 15 or Sunday 16 November.

If scores are level after second leg, away goals will be decisive. If scores are still level, sudden-death extra time will be played, followed by a penalty shoot-out.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 3429, Tuesday 14 October By Aclred Monday's Solution

ACROSS

- 1 Fellow in charge notes nothing American is false (10)
- 6 One goes sideways, right into taxi (4)
- 9 After short note one's engaged in moderate contract (10)
- 10 Italian writer retains hard copy (4)
- 12 In decline a man gets old and manipulated (5-7)
- 15 Rage aroused by gibe of relative (5-4)
- 17 Join European, rejected, forsaken (5)
- 18 About to beat soundly a person with outmoded ideas (5)
- 19 Able to struggle with the books of the church? (9)
- 20 Range of car presented by US state (6,6)
- 24 Stuck in unpaid leisure? (4)
- 25 Maybe lessen a POW with his gun taken away? (10)
- 26 One leaves a terminal where a gathering forms? (4)
- 27 Duty infer changes will keep a number cool (10)

DOWN

- 1 Note listeners' apprehension (4)
- 2 Prompt to cover British figure (4)
- 3 I'd something to go to club, say, which confirms who I am (8,4)
- 4 Putting on cool white coat and spending day gambling (5)
- 5 Mutual time finally expires when this could be given? (9)
- 7 Instruction suggesting danger in recreation area? (4,6)
- 8 Liberal-minded clergy will be material (10)
- 11 I'll represent what our paper stands for (12)
- 13 So a snigger could lead to violence (10)
- 14 Produced flow about roller being rich (4-6)
- 16 A French firm will show lack of care (9)
- 21 Two very high-ups and a snake (5)
- 22 Inclined to be tuppence short in the old shilling (4)
- 23 Describing result when hay's burned? (4)

Wimbledon sign Norwegian

Wimbledon scaled a bargain yesterday after a two-year pursuit of Stale Solbakken. Joe Kinnear, the Dons' manager, thinks the 29-year-old Norwegian international midfielder is worth over £2m but Lillestrom, who have just avoided relegation from Norway's top flight, have been persuaded to part with him for a mere £250,000.

Kinnear beat a host of other clubs for the signature of Solbakken, who has 37 caps and played a key role in taking Norway to next year's World Cup finals in France.

"In a normal market he would have been 10 times that. He is £2m-plus worth of talent," Kinnear said. "He is first choice for his position for Norway."

Coventry's Dion Dublin has lost his appeal to the Football Association against his sending-off at Blackburn two weeks ago. He will now start a three-match ban immediately, which means he will miss the Coca-Cola Cup third-round match against Everton tomorrow.

Everton's manager, Howard Kendall, hopes to complete the £1.75m signing of the Sheffield United goalkeeper Alan Kelly this week. Kendall has been in talks with his old club, trying to thrash out a deal.

Ben Thorley, a Manchester United winger once dubbed the new Ryan Giggs, is poised for a £700,000 move to Huddersfield. The left-winger's career was held up by a cruciate

ligament injury, but he is fully fit again. Huddersfield had Thorley on loan last year, but has an offer for him rejected.

Tomas Brodin has upset the Leeds manager, George Graham, again by failing to turn up for a reserve game at Liverpool on Saturday.

Sir Jack Hayward, the Wolves chairman, has dismissed rumours linking Ron Atkinson, the former Coventry City manager, with a move to Molineux, and has backed his under-fire manager, Mark McQueen.

Gerry Francis has added another name to the injury list at White Hart Lane - his own. The Tottenham manager has hurt his back playing with his children.

- Alan Nixon

CRICKET

Hasan shines as 'youngest' double centurion

Pakistan's Hasan Ruza, who became the youngest Test player when he faced Zimbabwe last year aged 14 years and 227 days, became the youngest scorer of a first-class double century yesterday - or maybe just one of the youngest because the absence of a birth certificate has cast doubt on his age.

He made an unbeaten 214, supposedly at the age of 15 years and 215 days, playing for

Karachi Whites against Bahawalpur in the national championship, which would break the 13-year record of another Pakistani, Ijaz Ahmed.

But doubts about his exact age have been present ever since he played in the Under-15 World Cup in England two years ago. Ten other boys originally selected for that squad were found to be over-age although Hasan was cleared. Six

of the Pakistan Under-19 party to the West Indies the same year were found to be too old.

After his debut against Zimbabwe in the second Test at Faisalabad - he scored 27 in his only innings - the Pakistan Cricket Board said medical tests showed him to be "about 15".

Majid Khan, the Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive, has said they do not accept Hasan's age.

BOXING

Wright's brother retires

The brother of Carl Wright, who remains critically ill in hospital after a championship fight on Saturday, has vowed he will give up the sport.

Paul Wright watched his younger brother challenge for the British light welterweight title on the same bill as Naseem Hamed and Chris Eubank in the Sheffield Arena.

After losing on points to Mark Winters, the 28-year-old collapsed while driving back to Merseyside with his trainer, Colin Moorcroft.

Surgeons at Walton Hospital's neurology unit operated to remove a blood clot on his brain and a spokesman yesterday described the boxer as "critically ill".

Paul, a middleweight, said: "I will never box again. I couldn't put our family through this kind of pain again."

Paul lost a World Boxing Organisation Inter-Continental title challenge earlier this year and said: "I didn't want to retire on a loss but that's it for me now."

Both Paul and Carl, who has been dubbed "The Wildcat", had been pupils at Liverpool's Campion High School and started their boxing careers at Salisbury Amateur Boxing Club. They made their professional debuts in the ring in 1989.

Carl had been preparing for Saturday night's bout in a caravan in Wales. It was his first fight since losing the European title to Denmark's Soren Sorensen on points almost a year ago.

Carl's wife, who is seven weeks pregnant, was monitoring his progress as he remained critically ill on a life support machine.

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MORSE

The first bug to invade a computer was crushed to death in the jaws of a relay in 1945

Bugs (albeit of a somewhat different type) are still a part of computing today. No system is immune without special protection.

Morse has a history of designing and implementing resilient UNIX systems. If a critical application or server has a problem, business continues as normal.

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